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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 12
April 7, 1986



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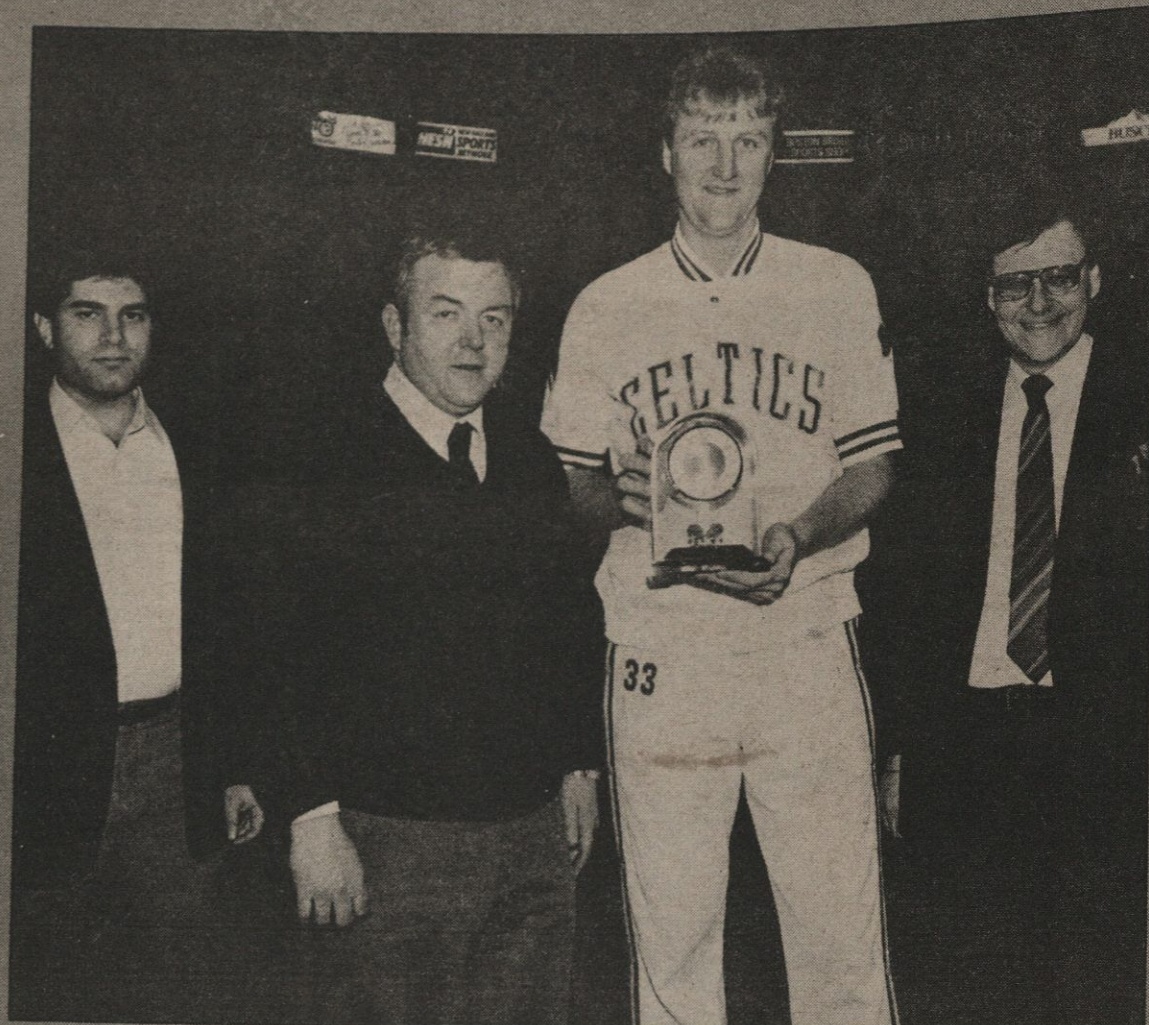
LARRY BIRD

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Bird Named Midas Player of the Month of February

In a ceremony prior to the Celtics game against the New York Knicks on Friday, March 7th, Larry Bird was named the Midas Player of the Month for the month of February. It was the second straight month that Bird has been the recipient of this honor. Presenting Larry with a beautiful clock in the photo above are, from left to right, Jay Grebstein of Wells, Rich, Green Advertising, Midas dealer Jack Wood, and Michael Wheeler of Talkradio 68 WRKO, the radio home of the Celtics.

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

A WESTON COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATION

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Celtics Pride is published twice per month during the basketball season and monthly in the off-season.

All rights reserved by Weston Communications, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840.

Postage paid at Mansfield, MA and additional offices. Subscription rate is \$20.00 for 20 issues. Foreign subscriptions are \$40.00 for 20 issues. Single copy is \$1.50. Postmaster send address changes to CELTICS PRIDE, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840.

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12
APRIL 7, 1986

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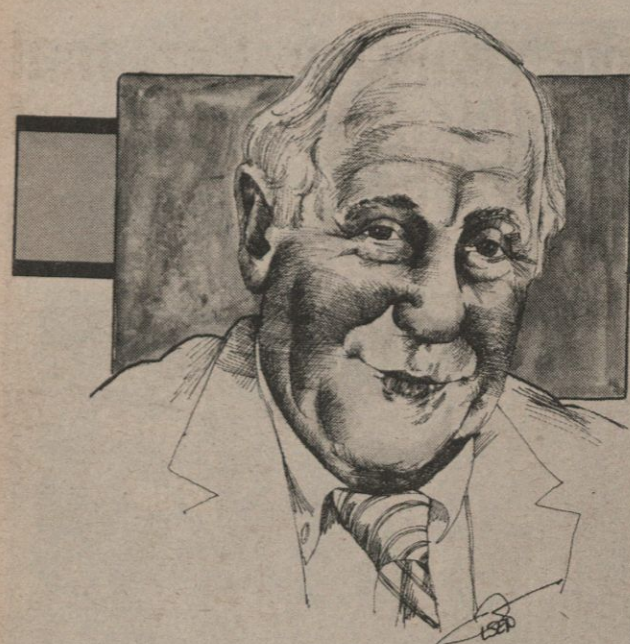


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Ask Red Auerbach

forget -- we've sold out about 250 straight home games at the Boston Garden, almost five years worth of games. We do the best we can to make the limited supply of tickets available to the public, but it's tough.

QUESTION: In *Red Auerbach: On and Off the Court*, you said that if you had to pick the best player you ever saw, you would pick Bill Russell over Larry Bird. Don't you think that Larry Bird, being such a tremendous all-around player, has a lot more talent to show everyone and just may be able to surpass Russell as your pick?

Lisa Melillo,
Bradford, Ct.

RED'S ANSWER: I explained in the book that much of my reason for picking Russell over Bird is based on my feeling that if you had to start a team with one or the other, I'd want it to be with the greatest center of all time, since center is the crucial position on the team. There's a difference between the best player and the most valuable player. I think that Larry may be the best player to have ever played the game, but I also think that Russell may have been the most valuable to his team. Whether Bill Russell would have been as valuable in today's era as opposed to Larry Bird is pure conjecture.

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of *Celtics Pride*. If you have a question for Red, please send it to *Celtics Pride*, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: What Celtics game do you think was the most exciting when you were the coach, and why?

Matthew Thompson,
St. Albans, W. Va.

RED'S ANSWER: There's not one specific game I could name to answer that question. Naturally, you've got to pick one of the seventh games of our series with L.A. One time, Sam Jones hit the last shot, once Don Nelson hit the shot, another time Bob Cousy hit the winning shot. They were all special to me.

QUESTION: I have mixed feelings about the 45-second clock in the NCAA. I would like to know if players like David Rivers of Notre Dame or "Pearl" Washington of Syracuse, who mostly play a slower pace of basketball, will be affected by the contrast of shot clocks in both leagues.

Jason Tassinari,
Plymouth, Mass.

RED'S ANSWER: Absolutely not. I think that David Rivers and "Pearl" Washington would play even better if they were given a free hand to run. In college, some of your teammates may not handle the ball well enough to play the running game and not commit too many turnovers, so coaches choose, probably wisely, to keep them under wraps somewhat. Both of the players you've mentioned do get a chance to run some, and I think they'll adjust well to the pros and be very good players.

QUESTION: As all Celtics fans, I'd love to see a game in the Garden (I never have). But I have not been able to get tickets. Is there any way possible to obtain tickets?

Doreen Khan,
Greenfield, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: Well, I know that this is a big problem for our fans, one we've tried to help some by making all of our games available on TV, either over-the-air or on cable. Right now, we just don't have enough tickets to satisfy the demand for them. We have over 12,000 season tickets sold and we hold over 2,000 tickets for each game for sale to the general public, which we put on sale at the beginning of the season. As we get late into the season, almost all of the games have been sold out, since the tickets have been on sale so long. Don't

Although Bird has a great impact on the game, which is harder to do today, nevertheless I still feel that Russell dominated his era and changed the way the game was played. It's a hard question to answer, because we're talking about different eras and different kinds of players.

QUESTION: During a recent game in Atlanta, the Celtics were distracted while trying to make free throws. The fans constantly screamed and pounded drums when the Celtics were in the act of shooting free throws. Is this legal? If so, how would you act if you were still the Celtics head coach?

Michael Killelea,
Weymouth, Mass.

RED'S ANSWER: If the fans do that, there is very little you can do; they've paid their money to come to the game and it's hard to control large groups of people. You can retaliate in your own arena if the problem originates from the opponent's management, however. I have no objections to the fans shouting and waving, for example, but if the team has their own organist hit a key as you're shooting a free throw or put a guy with a drum under the basket as you shoot, I think that's above and beyond the rights of the fans.

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Schick Pivotal Player Award to be Presented to Best "Team" Performer

Schick, which annually presents the Schick Pivotal Player Award to the National Basketball Association's most outstanding "team" performer as determined by computer evaluation, this year will begin its third year of sponsoring the award that has come to symbolize overall excellence in the NBA.

The Schick Division of Warner-Lambert, one of America's largest sellers of razors and blades, will present the Schick Pivotal Player Award to the 1985-86 season's most outstanding team performer following the NBA playoffs. Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls won the award last year.

"We are pleased to once again honor the NBA player who has made the most outstanding overall contributions to his team's success," said John Walsh, Marketing Vice President for Consumer Health Products Group, Warner-Lambert Co. "In the past two years, Schick has presented its Pivotal Player Award to two of the most exciting competitors ever to play in the NBA."

We look forward to continuing this tradition in the years ahead."

Inaugurated in 1983 for the 1983-84 season, the Schick Pivotal Player Award, which is based on computer evaluation of key offensive and defensive statistics including points scored, rebounds, steals and assists, was first presented to Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers, who in that 1983-84 season led the NBA in assists, and set records for most assists in an NBA playoff game, an NBA Championship Series game, and the NBA All-Star Game.

Jordan received the award last year based on a superior rookie season in which he averaged 28.2 points per game—third best in the league—and was both an offensive and defensive force in leading the Chicago Bulls into the playoffs.

SCHICK PIVOTAL PLAYER STANDINGS AS OF 3/17/86

Larry Bird	.263
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Innerview

Frank Ramsey

Former Celtics great John Havlicek is rightfully reknowned as the greatest sixth man ever to grace the NBA. However, Havlicek wasn't the first recognized sixth man in basketball. That honor goes to Frank Ramsey, a sharp-shooting guard from Kentucky who played with the Celtics from 1954-55 to 1963-64. Ramsey averaged 12.4 points a game in his 10-year career, helping the Celtics win six world championships.

"Frank Ramsey was by far the greatest sixth man in basketball history," former teammate Tom Heinsohn once said. "He had a dramatic impact on any game with 15 seconds of coming off the bench Ramsey never played in an NBA All-Star game because of the rule restricting a maximum of three players from any team. But the guy belongs in the Hall-of-Fame for ability that wasn't fully recognized through no fault of his own."

Ramsey was indeed inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1981. Today, the 54-year-old Ramsey still lives in his hometown of Madisonville, Ky. He's president of Dixon Bank, in a town called Dixon, which is near Madisonville. Ramsey also owns a 1400 acre farm. Celtics Pride had a chance to talk with Ramsey recently.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you become a bank president?

RAMSEY: It's a family bank, and my uncle died 15 years ago. I was the only member of my family left who could run it, so I did. I had been on the board of directors several years,



Frank Ramsey: Celtics first sixth man.

so I knew something about running a bank.

It's a \$20 million bank, which is a small bank. Still, it's the life blood of this community. We make loans to farmers to buy houses and cars. It's a small country bank.

CELTICS PRIDE: With your small-town lifestyle, you're pretty far removed from the NBA, right?

RAMSEY: I'm far removed from the

hustle and bustle, and I love it. I was raised on a farm. But I watch NBA games on TV constantly. I also talk to ex-Celtics often. I saw Tom Heinsohn in Lexington (Ky.) less than a month ago, and I've visited Jim Loscutoff, Red Auerbach and Buddy LeRoux. I haven't been to Boston since last summer, but when I was there, I tried to see everybody.

CELTICS PRIDE: You were part of the Red Auerbach Weekend. Describe it.

RAMSEY: It was tremendous. It was as if you walked into the lockerroom and everybody was telling the same stories, like they had never been away. It brought back memories.

CELTICS PRIDE: What was it like playing for the Celtics?

RAMSEY: The greatest era of my life. When people talk about great basketball teams, they generally agree that those Celtics teams were the best of all. It was great to be a part of all that, because that's something you can take to your grave.

CELTICS PRIDE: What made those teams so special?

RAMSEY: The first thing all those guys wanted to do was win. No one went out for personal glory. Nobody was looking for anything but to be the best team. We went out to win, and usually did. I wasn't looking for anything but the playoff check and to come out as world champions.

And the players liked each other.

There was no jealousy. Unlike some other clubs, on our team nobody ever criticized anybody else. There never was any friction.

If Loscutoff's or somebody else's kid got sick, my wife would go out and take care of them. If my wife was sick, K.C. Jones' wife would help out. Our families were close.

The players were thrown together---a trip to St. Louis took eight hours. All the players get to know each other and you got to know everybody's idiosyncrasies.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you feel about your sixth man role?

RAMSEY: Not starting didn't bother me. I enjoyed the sixth man role and felt it was relatively easy. When a game started, you could see how the tempo was going and get a feel for it. And you knew the man you'd be guarding would be a little tired after trying to cope with a Heinsohn or a Loscutoff. So as sixth man, I was resting while the people I'd be covering were getting tired. Also, it's a psychological fact that you're going to relax when a substitute comes in against you. Either way, I was surrounded by a galaxy of talent that was unique.

CELTICS PRIDE: Auerbach was pretty unique, wasn't he?

RAMSEY: Auerbach was tremendous and very easy to play for. He was a dictator. He'd listen to everybody, then make a final decision. And nobody questioned it.

CELTICS PRIDE: What were the most memorable moments of your Celtics career?

RAMSEY: The first championship we won, in 1957. Also, the day I played my last game at Boston Garden---I knew I'd never be there again. I felt empty, but I was going from one phase of my life to another. My legs were gone and I felt I couldn't contribute to the team anymore. It was time for somebody to take my place.

CELTICS PRIDE: One interesting note is that nearly every player who spent a considerable amount of time with the Celtics has been successful outside of basketball. Why is that?

RAMSEY: Maybe it was the character and the personality of the players. Red chose to be Celtics. He didn't worry about stats, he looked for someone who would contribute, someone who would fit.

Look at all the players he got at the end of their careers to help the Celtics---Silas, Willie Naulls and Bill Walton today. Red investigated the backgrounds of players to make sure they'd fit, to make sure they'd get along.

Bird's Eye Views

Through last week, Larry Bird again was playing some of the best ball of his career. Finally healthy after early season back miseries, Bird was named Player of the Month in February as a result of notching six triple-doubles and leading the team to the top of the league in best record. Bird roared into March like the fabled lion: 50 points in Dallas, 31 in Houston with 10 assists. Celtics Pride interviewed the game's best while the team was in the middle of the road swing.

CELTICS PRIDE: What players, in the league, rank as the best in the NBA? And where do you fit?

BIRD: Well, I'm not going to place myself at the top, the media does enough rating as it is. The best players in the league right now include Magic Johnson, Isiah Thomas, Dennis Johnson, and Jordan as Guards; Moses Malone, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Akeem Olajuwon, Centers; and the Forwards would probably include Kevin McHale, Julius Erving, Dominique Wilkins, and Ralph Sampson.

CELTICS PRIDE: What places these players above the others in the rest of the league?

BIRD: They have the ability to do more than one thing. Certain players are outstanding in one skill---like Magic and Isiah are great passers, but they are great scorers and defensive players, too. The great players (generally) are superstars in all phases of the game. They can do more than one thing and they make the players around them better. They're winners in every type of close-game situation.

CELTICS PRIDE: Wilkins has been a spectacular individual player in the past. What's brought him up to this level?

BIRD: Dominique has learned the value of the important pass. He's worked on his rebounding, he runs the court, he makes his free throws, and he's continued to be a top scorer. He sees the whole field better, he's become a total player.

CELTICS PRIDE: You've been a teammate of Dennis Johnson for three seasons now. Has he always ranked this high in your opinion of other players?

BIRD: Mid-way through Dennis's first season here, I realized how great a player he really is (We'd only play Western Conference teams twice a year and Dennis played on Western Conference teams, Seattle and Phoenix). Dennis is a talented player, a steady and big-play defensive player, and one of the best clutch players I've seen. He's one of the

best I've seen who wants to be in a tight spot and then to deliver. Dennis can be playing an average game and then decide he'll start to control it. He'll take the game over; if it's scoring, he'll put points on the board. If he needs to concentrate deeper defensively, he's able to do that.

CELTICS PRIDE: Despite a mid-season injury, Kevin McHale belongs "among the best players in the league", as you stated for the first time last season, after he broke (temporarily) your single-season Celtics scoring record.

BIRD: Kevin is one of the best offensive post men around; the best shooting big man with great footwork and great fakes around the basket. He's an excellent rebounder---defensively and off the offensive boards. (Besides his shot-blocking), this is where his long arms dominate; he's able to keep the ball up high after catching the offensive rebound. With a quick second jump after catching the ball, he scores a lot of garbage baskets. And he jumps very well to begin with. Finally, he's extremely dependable when we're setting up and we need points in the post.

CELTICS PRIDE: You're captain of the Celtics. Would you discuss psychological leadership, specifically, how you brought a player of Bill Walton's stature to fit in easily with the team?

BIRD: I don't think too much about it. But I do want to be a leader. Most players are followers. I want to be a leader by example. Being captain of the team is an honor, but we are all grown men. Walton is a special player. Normally the Celtics bring new people into their system slowly (the rookie, Sam Vincent is going through this now). But Walton is a great talent who knows his way around, and we knew the value of his ability to contribute. We wanted to get him involved and get him to feel relaxed here... get him in there and contributing. Point blank. No need to pay any price. We needed him to mount a challenge for the title. The message was to let performance be your dues.

CELTICS PRIDE: After a great individual season in 1982-83, the Celtics were swept in the play-offs. You went back to Indiana and worked, as you said then, "Harder than I ever have in my whole life." What motivated you?

BIRD: I was embarrassed by the defeat for one thing. But also: I had suffered more injuries than I ever had---a broken finger, sickness in the 2nd game of the Milwaukee series, and I felt more run down than I ever had before. I felt these things happened to me because I hadn't worked yearround at my game. I felt I had to work even harder.

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Larry Bird: The Best and Getting Better

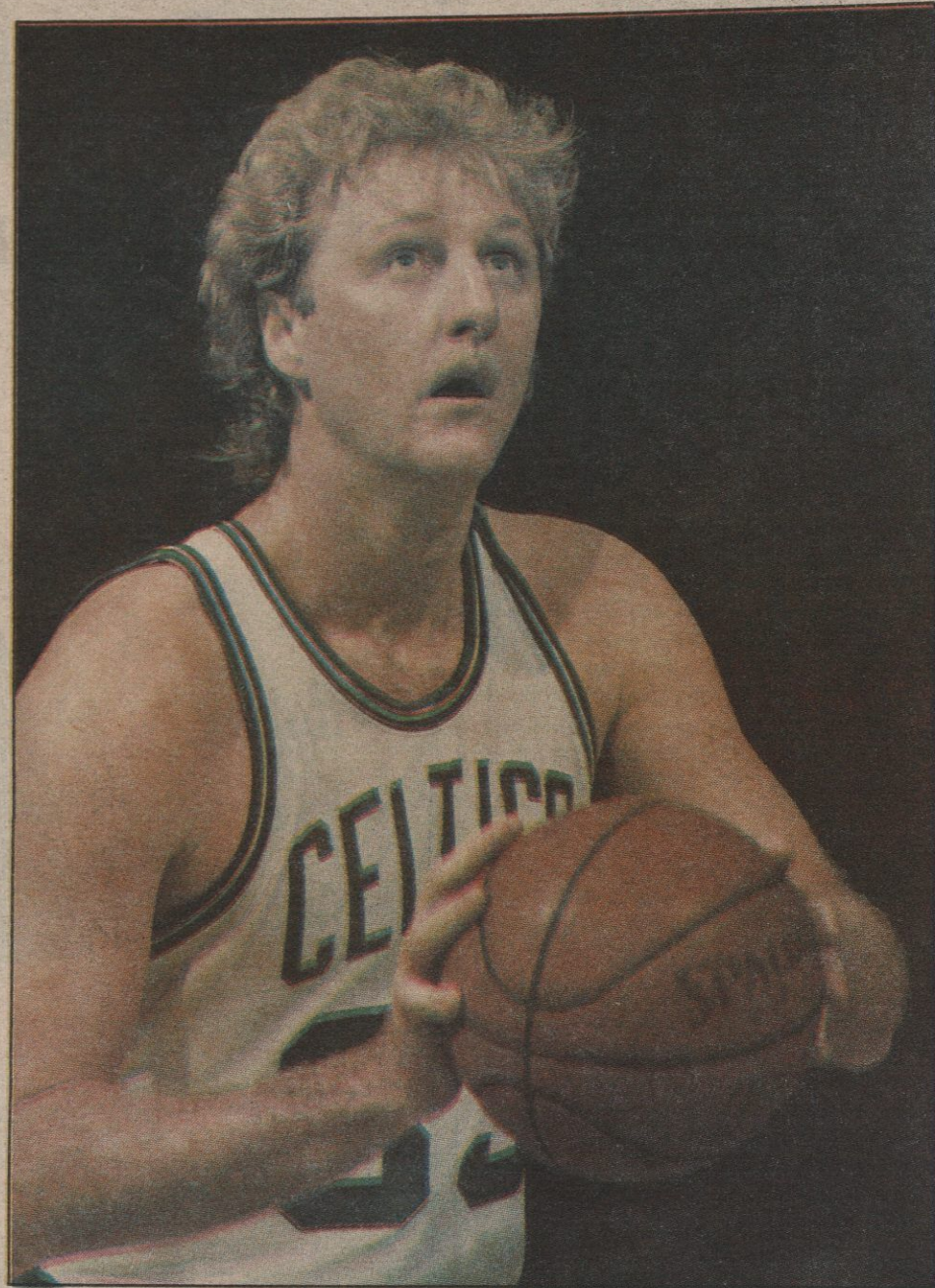
The thing which makes him different is he does the things which shouldn't be done. Like in a certain situation, he'll shoot a 3-point field goal when conservative strategy should be in order.

What makes him great, is he feels he has the freedom to do whatever he wants. He's phenomenal because he's in control of the game. He may make a bad play or a turnover, but then he'll come right back and make a steal, or hit a 3-point field goal which will break the other team's back. He does get bored—but he'll still come out ahead in the whole deal because he places winning above everything.

Who is the man, Larry Bird? Who is the player, winner of (soon-to-be-three) league Most Valuable Player awards, play-off and All-Star game MVP honors, two NBA championship? Larry Joe Bird, 6-9 and 220 pounds and 29 years old, won league and playoff MVPs in 1984 when the Celtics last won the league title, the franchise's 15th and Bird's second. Part of who Larry Bird is is he *improved* on that peak last year. In 1984-85 Larry Bird finished second in the league in scoring with a 28.7 ppg scoring average. He shot 52.2 percent from the field and added 10.5 rebounds and 6.7 assists per contest.

"I've never had that consistency," Bird said late last season. "I think that I played better than I ever played in the league."

Through games played last week, Bird was averaging 25.1 ppg with 10.1 rebounds and 6.8 assists a game. Asked how Bird's game compared to last season, Scott Wedman offered, "I think it's improved. Larry's using his left hand better. His post-up game is stronger (He's getting more points inside). And he's moving the ball a lot better. He used to work his own defender for more time on the offensive end. This year he's reading



Larry is the supreme competitor.

the defense even quicker, finding the right offensive move faster. He's made us more effective."

Larry Bird is a basketball player and man of many qualities. He is a total professional. He is the supreme

competitor. A quick, subtle, and acute sense of humor support him in a life far more public than he would ideally like. He is the most creative player ever, this derived from his love for the game and his understanding of the team-aspect of the game.

Bird came to basketball as uniquely mature young man. As a rookie in the NBA, he was an instant impact player. Probably Larry Bird's highest feature is he understands himself.

There's a Court on Every Corner

A garden of Eden for Bird's emergence, Indiana. He was born December 7, 1956 in West Baden Springs, IN; from the early years of his boyhood, the youngster had to absorb the sport of basketball. Kyle Macy of the Bulls and Jerry Sichting, both outstanding high school players in Indiana, point out that the game is taught to youngsters there on a total basis. "You don't just learn individual moves," says Macy. "You learn defense, team offense, leagues, history, everything." Bird himself recalls that he began loving the game

when one day he began making every shot he attempted. Perhaps on a court everywhere he turned; his high school gym in Springs Valley High is one of 11 indoor courts in the small town of French Lick (pop. 1,800). There are also 21 outdoor full courts.

Special relationships characterized Bird's formative years both as a basketball player and as a person. Jim Jones, coach of Springs Valley, taught and encouraged Bird's developing skills. "He was always around," Bird told Tony Cotton of *The Washington Post*. "It could be six or seven o'clock and a bunch of us playin' outside and he'd come by and stop and make pointers. He did it so much that what he said just started coming naturally...He would not listen to a player sayin' 'I can't do it.' He just didn't want to hear it."

"The thing I remember most about Larry," stated Jones last year "is the kind of competitor he was, even at the age of eight. I saw him without the greatest jumping ability but as someone who played so hard and who never backed down. His will to win was so great."

Bird is the fourth sibling of a family of five brothers and one sister. Because of pressing financial demands, Larry spent much time with his maternal grandmother, Lizzie Kerns, called by Mike McCormick of *The Terre Haute Spectator*, the most influential person on Bird's early life. (Bird remains close with his family to the present).

Turning Point

The story is well-documented: Bird began college in 1974 at the University of Indiana under Bobby Knight. Knight had seen Bird while the player was a senior and told Quinn Buckner that "Bird is a special player, one of the best." According to Georgia Bird, Larry's mother, Bird wanted to attend the University of Kentucky, but (then) Coach Joe B. Hall turned the player down. Mrs. Bird also sensed that despite Larry's

signing on with Knight, Larry would not last there. "When you're 18 and just out of high school, it's very tough to know what you want," Larry recalled. "I found I wanted a place I could relate to. IU was too big." Bird transferred to a junior college briefly, worked for the French Lick City department (a job he didn't mind), and played spectacular AAU ball. He was normal. He was content. He was a great basketball player still, however. Bill Hodges, assistant coach at Indiana State and later Bird's Coach, finally was able to persuade Larry Bird to challenge his athletic potential and return to college.

Hodges recalled, "There's a key to every person and finding the key that turns them on is an intricate thing. And the key with Larry was that he was playing AAU ball with another boy from French Lick and Larry said he would have been a great college player if he had gone to school."

"I said, 'Larry, yup, and someday the people in French Lick will say Larry Bird would have been a great

pro player if he had ever gone to college so they could see how great he really was. I think that hit a nerve and made him change his mind about going back to school."

Larry Bird averaged 30.3 ppg and 13.4 rebounds per game in 94 collegiate games. He was Player of the Year in 1979 and singularly took an unheralded Indiana State team to the finals of the NCAA championship.

His accomplishments at the professional level have accumulated; he has elevated the sport as, for example, Meryl Streep has elevated film. In an era racked with commercialism and drugs, Bird is, as Hubie Brown says, Sir Galahad. He won Rookie of the Year in 1979-80, carrying a last place team of the previous year to the finals of the Eastern Conference. The Celtics would win the title the following year. In 1981-82, he was All-Star MVP and fought off a serious jaw-fracture to have an outstanding year. The following year, he set his first Celtic

Continued on Next Page

Self-Portrait

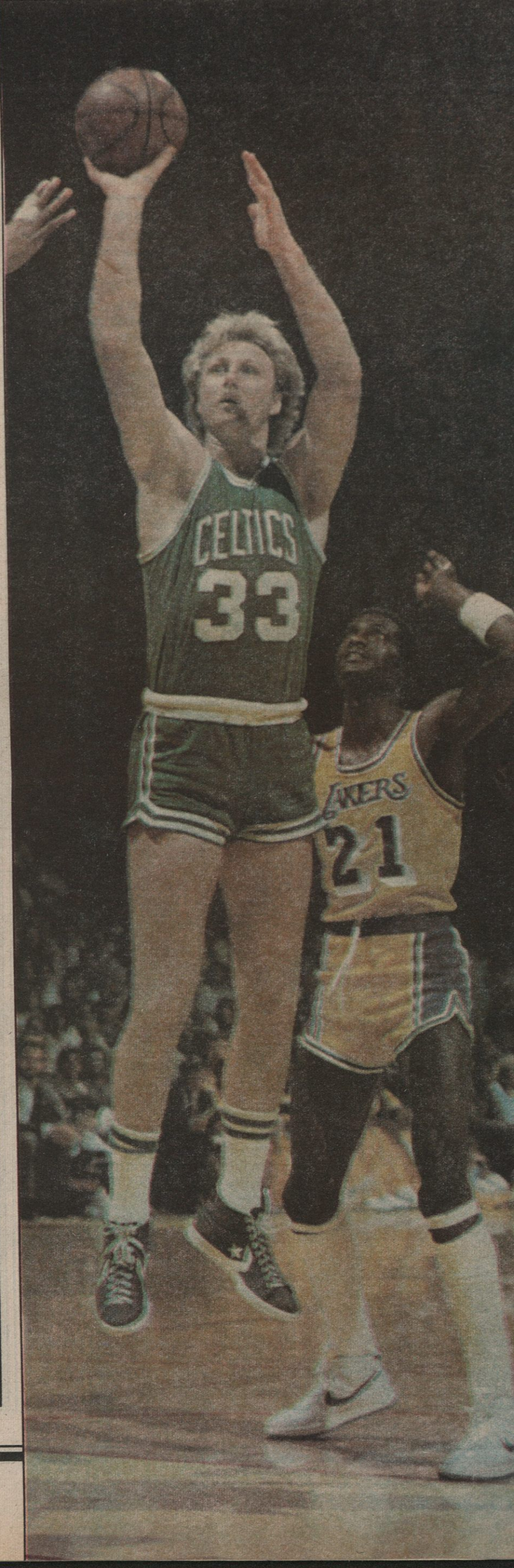


Larry Bird

- BIRTHDATE AND PLACE:** December 7, 1956 in West Baden Springs, Indiana
OCCUPATION: Professional basketball player
FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER: Serpico
IF I WERE REINCARNATED I'D BE: A local community hero
FAVORITE ALL-TIME TV SHOW: Bonanza
ENTREE I WOULD CHOOSE FOR MY LAST MEAL: Chinese food with Red Auerbach
FOUR GUESTS AT MY FANTASY DINNER PARTY: Close friends
FAVORITE NBA CITY OUTSIDE BOSTON: Chicago
FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Scotch and Sirloin and Tony Roma's
FAVORITE COMEDIAN: Jay Leno
FAVORITE BOARD GAME: Backgammon
IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION I'D CHOOSE: I'm playing it.
FAVORITE DRINK: Miller Lite
OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: Hunting jacket
I'D SPEND MY LAST \$10 ON: Admission ticket to heaven
IF I COULD CHANGE PLACES WITH AN ACTOR I'D PICK: Robert Duvall for his versatility
FAVORITE MUSICIAN: John Cougar Mellencamp and Kenny Rogers
I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Drive racing cars quickly and efficiently. That is, totally safely.
FAVORITE FILM: I've seen many. I liked Tender Mercies, New York, New York, The River, Desperately Seeking Susan
FAVORITE FOOD: Pretty basic, I guess. Well-prepared beef.
FAVORITE TV SHOW: Hill Street Blues

Larry Bird's 40+ Point Games in Regular Season Play

ATLANTA	NEW ORLEANS	MARCH 12, 1985	60
INDIANA	INDIANA	MARCH 30, 1983	53
DALLAS	DALLAS	MARCH 10, 1986	50
HOUSTON	BOSTON	MARCH 17, 1985	48
PORTLAND	BOSTON	JANUARY 27, 1985	48
ATLANTA	BOSTON	DECEMBER 9, 1984	48
PORTLAND	PORTLAND	FEBRUARY 14, 1986	47
DETROIT	BOSTON	NOVEMBER 27, 1985	47
MILWAUKEE	BOSTON	APRIL 12, 1985	47
INDIANA	INDIANA	FEBRUARY 24, 1985	45
PHOENIX	PHOENIX	FEBRUARY 13, 1980	45
PHILADELPHIA	BOSTON	NOVEMBER 9, 1984	42
ATLANTA	ATLANTA	JANUARY 18, 1986	41
PORTLAND	BOSTON	DECEMBER 2, 1983	41
DETROIT	BOSTON	MARCH 2, 1980	41
DENVER	DENVER	FEBRUARY 20, 1985	40
DALLAS	DALLAS	NOVEMBER 27, 1984	40
DETROIT	BOSTON	JANUARY 10, 1982	40



Larry Bird's Greatest Games

In a sport which is at best weakly defined by its statistics, Larry Bird's contributions to a Celtics win are probably least defined by basketball's math. Yet he was averaging 23.8 ppg with 10.6 rebounds and 6.0 assists per contest in his career through late last month. The list presented is necessarily subjective; memories are sometimes tricky, as are Bird's typical box car numbers. One honest opinion is objective however. This is a player, who, when one examines his stats and sees productivity, one can be certain that this game-by-game achievement reflects a man of the highest hoop talent.

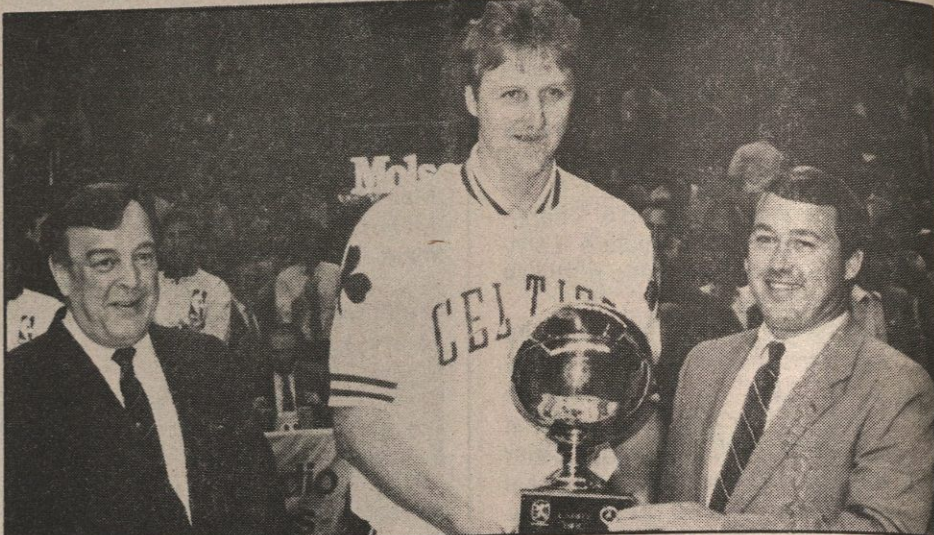
The list includes games Bird played while a draftee and player for the Celtics.

February 25, 1979. Bird scores 49 against Wichita State in his final home game as a senior at Indiana State. The Sycamores finish their home games with Bird at 81-13.

March 17, 1979. Bird tallies 31 points and grabs 15 rebounds as the Sycamores defeat Sidney Moncrief and Arkansas, 73-71 to advance into the Final Four.

March 24, 1979. Indiana State edges DePaul to make the final game against Michigan State, 75-74. Bird scores 39 on 16 for 19 field goal shooting.

February 13, 1980. He begins his authentic march to stardom. The Celtics endure a long western trip without injured captain, Dave Cowens. Bird tallies 45 points and



One of Bird's finest moments was the presentation of the 1984 MVP trophy.

grabs 13 rebounds in team's 1-point loss to veteran Phoenix team.

April 20, 1980. In team's lone playoff win against Philadelphia in Bird's first season, he scores 33 points and pulls down 13 rebounds, as Celtics win second game of Conference Final.

November 1, 1980. Bird matches Julius Erving in shootout near beginning of second season. Erving scores

career-high 45 in Sixer OT win. Bird replies with 36 points and 21 rebounds.

February 11, 1981. The best total game of his early career. Celtics defeat Lakers at The Forum; Bird scores 36, with 21 rebounds, 6 assists, 5 steals, 3 blocks.

May 3, 1981. The most important game of his early career. Completing

Bird's Career Triple-Double's

		*consecutive games						
Season	No. Team	Site	Date	Reb	Asst	Pts	Score	
1979-1980	- 1	Detroit	Home	Nov. 14	19	10	23	115-111
		*Phoenix	Away	Dec. 30	10	10	27	116-97
1980-1981	- 4	*San Diego	Away	Jan. 1	13	10	13	88-85
		Utah	Home	Jan. 21	10	10	20	117-87
		Indiana	Away	Mar. 6	10	10	28	104-110
		*New Jersey	Away	Jan. 11	14	10	25	112-94
1981-1982	- 3	*Atlanta	Home	Jan. 13	19	15	28	116-95
		Seattle	Away	Feb. 21	12	14	22	100-103
		Detroit	Away	Dec. 4	16	12	30	119-112
		Utah	Away	Jan. 1	15	11	14	127-112
1982-1983	- 4	San Antonio	Away	Jan. 7	12	10	25	116-113
		Washington	Away (OT)	Apr. 2	10	12	34	120-117
		Denver	Away	Nov. 15	11	10	28	140-124
		NY Knicks	Away (2OT)	Nov. 22	11	11	16	113-117
1983-1984	- 7	San Antonio	Home	Nov. 30	14	13	23	130-106
		Philadelphia	Home	Dec. 4	11	13	22	114-121
		Houston	Home	Feb. 10	14	12	17	114-101
		Seattle	Away	Feb. 17	13	13	30	111-100
		Chicago	Home	Apr. 8	10	10	30	117-110
		*Phoenix	Away	Dec. 26	11	10	34	119-114
		*LA Clippers	Away	Dec. 27	13	13	13	118-103
1984-1985	- 8	*San Antonio	Away	Dec. 29	15	10	18	120-112
		NY Knicks	Away	Jan. 7	10	10	26	108-97
		Utah	Away	Feb. 18	12	10	30	110-94
		*Detroit	Home	Mar. 3	15	10	30	138-129
		*NY Knicks	Away	Mar. 5	19	10	20	110-102
		Milwaukee	Home	Mar. 20	13	11	10	107-105
		New Jersey	Away (OT)	Oct. 25	12	10	21	109-113
1985-1986	- 8	New York	Away	Nov. 23	10	10	18	113-104
		*Seattle	Away	Feb. 13	15	11	31	107-98
		*Portland	Away (OT)	Feb. 14	14	11	47	120-119
		Golden St.	Away	Feb. 19	12	11	36	115-100
		*Indiana	Home	Feb. 23	11	12	30	113-98
		*New York	Away	Feb. 25	18	13	24	91-74
		LA Clippers	Home	Feb. 28	13	12	20	124-108

"The Best" continued from Page 9

scoring record of 53 with as thrilling a one-man end-to-end scoring show ever. There was the sweep of individual and team honors in 1983-84, unprecedented in achievement. Last year, he scored 60 against Atlanta; another touch is the 3-Point Field Goal victory in Dallas, a month before he scored 50 against the Mavericks there.

But there's more; Bird's creativity infuses his achievements with life. He jumps better than commonly thought. His jumper (head slightly tilted, both arms extended) has range and is deadly. He determinedly power drives on both baselines; his passing is correct and creative (the back-hand slap pass on the transition, e.g.). His power rebounding mirrors 1980-81, his best board season. He lofts the ball higher and higher on drives. He'll dive on the floor for balls and fly into the stands for saves. He'll shoot and score shots from half-court if time demands. He's the league leader in free throws. His vision is without equal; and his defense is underrated, relying on his court sense and expertise in positioning. He is the master of the pressure shot and is supreme in the most important games for the team. Red Auerbach comments about his ability to make the pressure shot: "The best I've ever had in rising to the occasion were Cousy, Havlicek, and Russell. And Larry goes beyond them. He wants the ball, and he knows what the hell to do with it."

So why the greatest ever? "Larry has the desire to stay on top," says Mike Thibault, Bulls' scout. "He dares to be great--it's a dare in a lot of ways at this (pro) level. It's instinct, competitiveness. It's heart."

"Bird has the ability to control the game, which is extremely difficult from the forward position," says

broadcaster Butch Beard. "He's able to rebound, bring it up himself, and run the offense with his passing. His passing is the best there's ever been."

"A perfectionist, offers Knicks' assistant coach Richie Adubato. "The biggest thing is his self-motivation. He's will, with imagination." Says Charles Barkley, 76er Forward, "Larry Bird is The Man."

Several experts point out how Bird relies and draws upon the abilities of extremely talented teammates (Johnson, McHale, etc.); his team-oriented play and sense of humor insure his inclusion. As the Celts prepared to play LA last year, Danny Ainge asked Bird for advice on playing Magic Johnson. "Just try & stop him from getting a triple-double before the end of the first quarter," deadpanned Bird. The team is the man's work setting. It allows him the opportunities to play the game at its highest level. It's the passing game--Bird's great at it, the technique promotes a giving attitude, promotes a sporting brotherhood. So the team provides a measuring gauge for knowing who he is.

In the most ideal of basketball environments, Boston, Bird is The Hero, and an object of hero worship and accompanying demands. He has capitalized, surely; but his beauty is that he regards himself first as a basketball player--aware he's a great one. It burgeons his confidence, as does his relationship with his woman, the lovely Dinah Mattingly. He's taken control outside the arena, building a home for his mother, promoting Converse's "The Weapon"; but he's built himself an outdoor full-length basketball court, as well.

To recall the memories of youth, shooting baskets in the night, when creative dreams of basketball glory were summoned. And realized.

23-point, 11-rebound game, Bird breaks 89-89 tie with game-winning shot as C's complete comeback 4-3 series win over 76ers.

May 5, 1981. Bird scores 19 with 21 rebounds in 1st Game of playoff final series against Houston and Moses Malone. Game is notable for shot Bird makes in pressure situation. Trailing 87-84 with less than four minutes remaining, Bird attempts shots from right wing right-handed. The 21-foot try bounces off rim; Bird follows shot and while in mid-air, catches it and in one motion swishes the offensive rebound, left-handed. Shot awakens slumbering play-off favorite Celts who go on to win.

May 14, 1981. Bird snaps "slump" --- averaged 21.9 ppg and 14.0 rpg in playoffs-- by scoring 27 points and 13 rebounds against Rockets to capture 6th game and 1st NBA championship. His 3-point Field Goal clinches matters.

January 13, 1982. Celtics defeat Atlanta, 116-95 in Boston. Bird scores 28-points, with 19 rebounds, and 15 assists.

March 16, 1982. Bird, the best 6th Man ever after being injured earlier in season, scores 31 with 21 rebounds off bench as Celtics win 12th in 18-game team record winning streak.

April 13, 1982. In game after crown in clinched, Bird, again off the bench, scores 35 with 17 rebounds as C's stop Bulls in Chicago.

February 23, 1983. Celtics defeat the Lakers in the Forum as Bird scores 32 with 17 rebounds.

March 30, 1983. Bird scores team regular season record 53 as Celtics defeat Pacers in Boston.

February 17, 1984. Celts edge Golden State at start of critical road trip as Bird contributes team-record (for Forwards) 17-assists.

May 7, 1984. Bird wraps up Game 7 of New York Knicks playoff with electric form, unforgettable elegance. In 121-104 win, he notches triple double: 39 points, 15 rebounds, 10 assists, 3 steals.

June 6, 1984. In 97-degree heat in the Boston Garden, Bird scores 34 on 15-20 field goal shooting as Celtics defeat Lakers in Game 5 of championship final, 121-103. Dennis Johnson's comment after: "This was probably the best game we ever played."

November 7, 1984. Scores 42 through three quarters and holds Julius Erving to six--before the two exchange punches in tense fight. Both are ejected as C's win, 130-119.

December 9, 1984. Sport shootout with Dominique Wilkins. Bird-48 to Wilkins-47 points as Celtics win on McHale tip at buzzer, 128-127.

January 27, 1985. Defeats Portland with jumper from corner at buzzer; high arching jump gives him 48 for game and wins it, 128-127.

January 29, 1985. In the second of back-to-back games, Bird defeats Pistons at buzzer with running drive from corner, 131-130. Shot gives him 32.

February 18, 1985. Registers triple-double against Utah---through three quarters. Has nine steals in game but turns down chance to re-enter game with the contest safely in the Celtics win column.

March 12, 1985. Breaks Kevin McHale's nine-day old Celtic scoring mark (McHale tallied 56 against

Detroit, March 2, 1985) with 60 against Hawks in New Orleans. Shot 22 for 36 from the field.

March 17, 1985. Playing against Bill Fitch and Akeem Olajuwon, Bird lights up Rockets for 48 in Celtic win.

April 25, 1985. Leads clinching effort by Celtics as Green eliminates Cavs in play-offs. Tallies 34 points with 14 rebounds after sitting out game with elbow injury.

January 26, 1986. Scores three 3-point FGs in 3rd quarter to lead comeback win over Sixers, 105-

103. Included is 3-point FG from halfcourt as 3rd period ended. Highlights 28-point, 14-rebound, 6-assist game.

February 14, 1986. Defeats Portland at buzzer again; for the second time in a little over a year, breaks one-point victory hope of Blazers, with 46th and 47th point of night. Within total is 20 points---lefthanded; adds 14 rebounds and 11 assists.

March 10, 1986. In 3rd highest scoring total of career, he scores 50 in 116-115 loss in Dallas.



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M. L. Carr

On Larry Bird...

I think Larry is the second-best three-point shooter in the country. They crowned him as the three-point king, but they did it when I was out of the league! Seriously, Larry is the best player in the game, period. The guy does every phase of the game the way we'd all love to play it. He gets the maximum out of his body and playing ability.

Larry is a quiet leader-- he leads by example. He's not the sort to say, "C'mon guys, let's go." He stays around for extra practice and is the first guy to come and the last guy to leave. He also does extra running and takes extra shooting. Other players think if a guy that great is doing that, they should, too.

Larry is so good because he has unbelievable confidence in his ability to get it done. He has the determination not to settle for anything less.

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Larry is a quiet leader.

He has tremendous anticipation on the court. Larry positions himself on the court offensively and defensively as well as any player I've ever seen. Basketball isn't a big secret. The court isn't that big and there are 10 players on the court. Larry plays angles and does it so very well.

He has a tremendous amount of drive. If you're around Larry a lot, you'll see that watching things that happened around his home were very important to him. A lot of his drive is instilled from home. He has a tremendous work ethic.

Larry signed a contract out of college, then signed a new one. He feels like he's got to do more now

that he's making more money. He's not like some guys who rest on their laurels and take it easy. What a tremendous statement to make to an employer.

Larry is so great that you start to take him for granted. For example, you'll think something is wrong if he misses two shots in a row. We've taken him for granted many times. You feel like when the ball is in his hands, he'll make something happen.

I remember one time in Hartford when Larry scored 40 points in a game. I said it was the most unselfish 40 points I've ever seen. No matter how many awards or honors Larry has won, he always makes sure the other players are part of the award. In college, the press was surrounding him so much after every game he didn't talk to them. He wanted some of the other players to get interviews.

When Larry first came to the NBA, everybody was testing him, thinking that he wasn't all that good. Larry was billed as a great, great player. Larry is so tough that he was up to those challenges-- he welcomes that. Larry is a physical player and will never be intimidated.

In fact, he's so great and his level of play is so much higher than anyone else's that he does things to challenge himself. He'll take a shot to see if he can make it.

Larry has a tremendous amount of pride in what he's doing and playing for the organization. It's a great feeling to him. One thing you sense is the tremendous amount of respect Larry has for Red Auerbach. That runs really deep.

After Larry's first contract ran out, there was no doubt he'd stay with the Celtics. Had he left, we would've all gone AWOL!

Larry loves the game-- he loves to play. He's always trying to improve. If his level of play ever declines, he'd still be a few grades above the rest. But that won't happen for a while. Larry seems to be going on and on.



Feature of the Month

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K.C.s Corner

Coaching Dilemma

Red Auerbach, who was the best coach in history, was very thoughtful on the subject of motivation. This is a problem this time of year, when probing your players is akin to pulling teeth, it seems. Red wrote in his book that a major task for the professional coach was finding ways to motivate players on a nightly basis. Sometimes he would sit in the locker room and smoke a cigar and say absolutely nothing. Other times he would walk from one player to another, and pass a quiet word.

We enter the final phase of our season. We have finished the major travelling (West Coast & Texas) in our season. Too, we have played some of our best ball of the season (I was especially pleased with our effort when Kevin McHale was injured). Yet, with an important race for the best record in the league with LA, it is tough to get up for ballgames.

Not that I haven't tried. If you call three technicals in five days a laudable effort. They occurred in wins, so something worked.

I picked up my first technical in our game against Detroit, March 2. It seemed to get us going. Against a team which had won 10 straight coming in here, the effort of our team was very mean. Detroit shot over 60 percent in the first half of that game, and we trailed by only three at half-time. You must match that intensity, when facing a team of Isiah Thomas, Kelly Tripucka, and aggressive offense. We did, and we came away with an important win.

Five days later I was ejected in the second quarter of our game against the Knicks. New York attacked our sluggish defense, our careless offense...so I thought we weren't getting the calls. I left (I gave a parting shot) and we immediately rallied. At the half, the coaches, Jimmy Rodgers and Chris Ford, did the talking. I went into Ray Melchiorre's training room; it was their show, they had the feel out there, knew what needed to be done. Our club took



McHale is back and very effective.

control in the second half; we had moved Kevin McHale back into the starting lineup and despite a contest which was probably closer than it should have been, we were pleased to get the win.

What is happening? Teams have to be satisfied to get "ugly" wins now because it is that time of the year. The body-mind problem affects everybody now. What you hope for as a coach is the work you've put in over an entire season helps to dictate extra effort when games are out there to be won. The following night in Washington I thought we played a strong ballgame, although there were some lapses on defense. We carried the game into overtime when Larry Bird hit a jumper from the key; but Gus Williams hit a second opportunity three-point goal as the OT was winding down.

This also explains how games are decided at this stage of the year. Williams had the ball because Cliff

Robinson had enough hustle at that particular time to make a diving save. Fatigue can mean the difference; you can't make the save and then you might be slow in reacting. Those plays are often out of your control, but they decide games.

The following day my interview with Mike Carey in *The Boston Herald* appeared. At that time, I stated that I still am opposed to the 2-3-2 final series schedule. I stand by that opinion. Assuming we are strong through the end of the regular season and win that championship (that is our goal), we would be hosting the finals if we win the Eastern Conference play-offs. Now the Western Conference champion would be coming in here loose. They know they would need to win one game here for the split and go home for three home games. They would be primed for the knockout. Recall last season: Dennis Johnson's shot at the buzzer barely saved the home court advantage for us. A buzzer-beater is too dangerous. A season-long title should be worth more than depending on a shot like that. And by the time we had returned to Boston, they had the jump on us. Game 6 it was over, the NBA championship theirs.

Those are the rules and we have too much pride to lose games and finish second. We think that last year's experience will teach us to avoid allowing the split.

We split the opening games of our road trip in Texas; in the loss at Dallas, we struggled with turnovers

and came up empty against a Maverick team that has never beaten us. Still, with their crowd shouting and momentum on their side, the ballgame had been ours. Larry hit 50; he is a superb blend of streetfighter and finesse. Three-pointers, drives, tip-ins, and a sense of his own ability. I cannot find areas to criticize him because he works too hard every night. At 5:35 remaining in the 4th quarter, we led 104-92. The carelessness wore our green uniforms and the Mavericks executed. Rolando Blackman, of their team, is among the top guards in the league-- tall, quick, fearless, strong defensively, excellent free throw shooter. And when we closed in on him, he dished off to Dale Ellis and Ellis hit a crushing 3-pointer to win the game for them, 115-114.

It was on the Houston for a game the following night and we dug down deep. Bill Walton played one of his strongest games for us, spelling Robert Parish when our top man got into foul trouble. Dennis Johnson took the ball in strong all night and Larry was spinning shots in from low, and later, tallying his "pet" shot--the 3-point field goal. It's a long shot but for him...I've learned to expect the best from him. He explores the game fully and finds ways to win.

The victory there restored our confidence and renewed again the identity of this year's team. In three categories: first, we have the ability to win on the road. Second, we are a team which bounces back, able to win after being defeated, even following tough defeats. Third, we have proven to the league and to ourselves we are resourceful. On any given night, we find ways to win. Comebacks, the Green Team, superstars, our starters. It's something you try to build as a coach during each season and you breathe deep and trust it continues in each ballgame.

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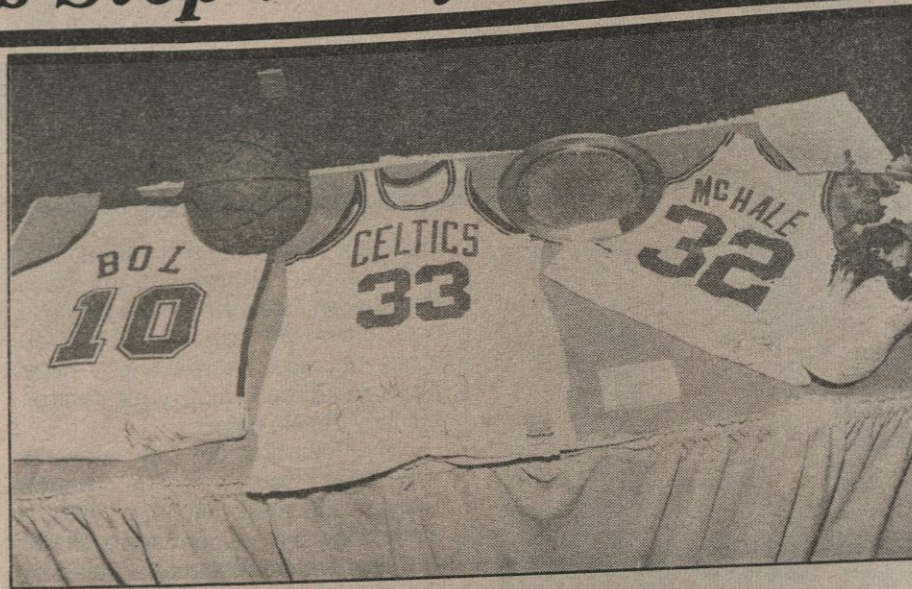
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Celtics Step in Style to Raise Funds



K.C. Jones and family.



The auction items were a basketball fans dream.



Jerry Sichting and Son.

Fashion Show for Massachusetts Special Olympics a Rousing Success

When the Boston Celtics and their families step out for an evening, they certainly do it in style.

It was at the height of fashion that the Celtics staged the Third Annual Boston Celtics Dinner, Fashion Show and Auction at the Westin Hotel on Thursday, March 6th. Most of the members of the Celtics family -- players, coaches and staff -- joined their families in modeling the latest of fashions, provided by Yolanda's of Waltham and Mr. Tux.

At the core of the festivities was the evening's purpose -- to raise fun-

ds for the benefit of Massachusetts Special Olympics. In fact, a number of Special Olympians and handicapped people participated in the entertainment, both as members of the Cardinal Cushing School Choir, which sang several songs, or as special fashion models.

The grand finale of the show featured a personal appearance by pop singer Natalie Cole, whose music graced the entire production. Her rendition of "Our Love", a new song featured on her soon-to-be-released album, "Dangerous", concluded the presentation.

The 1986 fundraiser has

ultimately proven to have been the biggest source of revenue ever for Massachusetts Special Olympics. In just the third year of its existence, this event provided nearly \$100,000 to the charity.

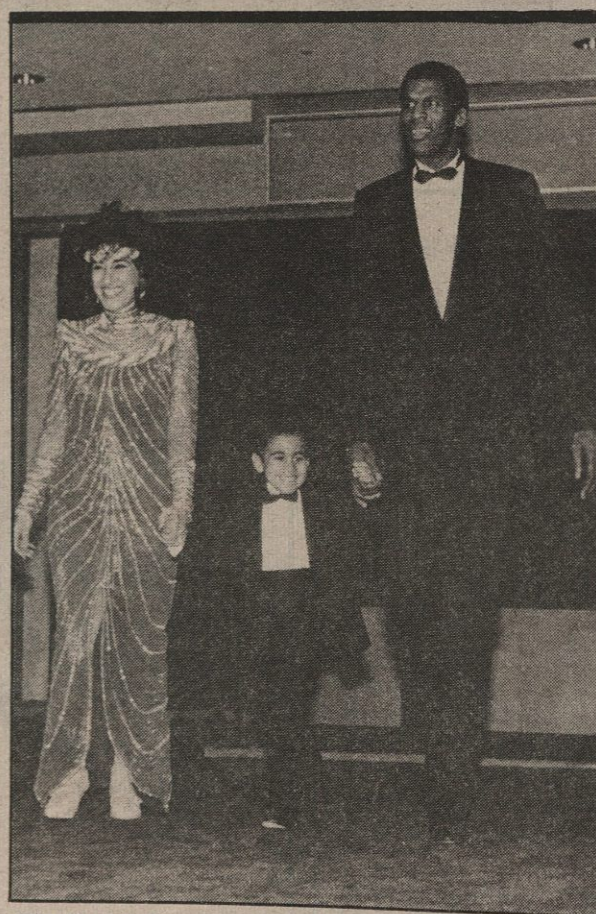
In addition to the income from the dinner tickets, a major source of the evening's revenue was the special silent auction, featuring selected Boston Celtics memorabilia and game paraphernalia. Most of the more than 850 people in attendance succumbed to temptation and bid on the fantastic array of items available for auction. A sampling of the contributions made by generous bidders: Bob

Nargassans of Boston bid \$2,500 for the chance for his son to be a ballboy at a Celtics game; Robert Leibowitz of Norwell, Mass. bid \$3,001 for a trip to Hawaii; Kyle Nagel of Salem, N.H. bid \$2,600 for a trip to the NBA finals; A.C. Clough of Connecticut bid \$1,900 for a week in Bermuda; and Bob Spiller of Boston bid \$2,200 for a week in Pebble Beach, California. Many others, obviously aware that their entire bids were donations to Massachusetts Special Olympics, opened their wallets for the cause.

It was a gala evening for a worthy cause, done as always with the Celtics -- with style.



Kim and Scott Wedman.



The Parish Family.



The Kites and their twins.

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- EXAMPLE -

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4 Cyl. 1,600 CC. Liftback

Part #	Description	Manufacturer's List Price	Everyday Low Price	After Rebate
58151	Eng. pipe	50.55	30.99	28.49
18016	Inter. pipe	17.87	9.99	7.49
M1497	Muffler	42.29	24.99	19.99
34688	Tail pipe	18.22	8.99	5.49
		\$128.73	\$74.96	\$62.46

Avg. Installed Price \$130.00
Do-it-yourselfers Save \$67.54

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- EXAMPLE -

1976-79 DATSUN B210 COUPE
4 Cyl. Sedan, w/o Cat. Conv.

Part #	Description	Manufacturer's List Price	Everyday Low Price	After Rebate
7573	Eng. pipe	58.22	33.99	31.49
M1472	Muffler	39.49	21.99	16.99
44690	Tail pipe	20.70	13.99	11.49
		\$118.41	\$69.97	\$59.97

Avg. Installed Price \$132.00
Do-it-yourselfers Save \$72.03

- EXAMPLE -

1979 CHEVY MALIBU
6 Cyl. 231 Eng. Exp. El Camino

Part #	Description	Manufacturer's List Price	Everyday Low Price	After Rebate
58175	Eng. pipe	26.31	16.99	14.49
38147	Inter. pipe	19.43	12.99	10.49
M1431	Muffler	50.50	29.99	24.99
34684	Tail pipe	17.82	11.99	9.49
		\$123.40	\$77.44	\$59.46

Avg. Installed Price \$147.00
Do-it-yourselfers Save \$87.54

- EXAMPLE -

1981 PLYMOUTH RELIANT
2.2 Litre Eng. w/o Cat. Conv.

Part #	Description	Manufacturer's List Price	Everyday Low Price	After Rebate
58193	Eng. pipe	36.79	21.99	19.49
34730	Inter. pipe	16.69	10.99	8.49
M1559	Muffler & Tail pipe	48.39	27.99	22.99
		\$101.87	\$60.97	\$50.97

Avg. Installed Price \$129.00
Do-it-yourselfers Save \$78.03

- EXAMPLE -

1974 DODGE DART
6 Cyl. 225 Engine w/o Cat. Conv.

Part #	Description	Manufacturer's List Price	Everyday Low Price	After Rebate
87721	Eng. pipe	37.74	20.99	18.49
M1136	Muffler	39.07	22.99	17.99
54631	Tail pipe	23.14	14.99	12.49
		\$99.95	\$58.97	\$48.97

Avg. Installed Price \$120.00
Do-it-yourselfers Save \$71.03

- EXAMPLE -

1977 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS
6 or 8 Cyl. 2 Door

Part #	Description	Manufacturer's List Price	Everyday Low Price	After Rebate
38051	Inter. pipe	20.95	13.99	11.49
M1366	Muffler	56.35	32.99	27.99
64592	Tail pipe	22.16	15.99	13.49
		\$99.46	\$62.97	\$52.97

Avg. Installed Price \$130.00
Do-it-yourselfers Save \$77.03

Celtics Confidential

K. C. Jones recently spoke to The Herald's Mike Carey about shortening the length of the NBA season. "Seventy-two (regular season games) or so would be good. At this stage of the year, I'm not so concerned with winning games as I am about avoiding injuries. I know that shouldn't be the case but it can't be helped when the season drags on for 82 games." C's played 20 games in 16 different cities through the end of last week, including eight back-to-back pairs of contests. Ten of the present eleven are in the Garden.

Bill Walton will address the Harvard basketball banquet, April 14th. Walton also has begun a daily series of reports on the doings of the team on WBOS-FM. His shows air at 7:40 am before and after home games and 4:40 pm before and after away games. Jimmy Rodgers, Director of Player Personnel, recently told Bob Cousy that if the team is in the lottery, they would seriously consider these top choices according to position:



Rick Weitzman: Play by Play.

Brad Daugherty—C from University of North Carolina. If the team decided on a forward, Len Bias of Maryland ranks highest now. Top guards, feels Rodgers, are Johnny Dawkins of Duke or Dell Curry of Virginia Tech. The more one sees of Bias, the more one is reminded of Michael Jordan, with slightly less range and slightly

less ballhandling experience.

Billy Packer, CBS college basketball analyst, points out three keys for winning the ongoing NCAA Tournament championship: "Winners usually have strong senior leadership. They also have power in the frontcourt, and finally the players on the team have NCAA tourney experience." Richie Aduabato, assistant coach of the New York Knicks, says the reason the Knicks rated Charles Oakley (rookie for the Bulls) over Keith Lee of Cleveland when the two rookies were swapped during the draft last season, was because of "Attitude." Both players have tremendous ability. In our opinion, Lee wasn't very interested in practicing hard, in playing consistently hard every night. Much of this game (at the pro level) is mental. A young player must be willing to 'pay dues' every day; we weren't sure Lee would do that, according to our evaluations." According to Aduabato, small players who lack the quickness of Sam Vincent or a Spud Webb of Atlanta, "must have range and toughness." Aduabato feels that Scott Skiles of Michigan State, a 6-1 guard (and former teammate of Vincent's) has a chance on talent, but expressed concern about that player's recent drug and probation problems.

Mike Thibault, Scout for the Chicago Bulls, commented recently that the toughest players in the league for a team to prepare for are Larry Bird, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Akeem Olajuwon, Isiah Thomas, and the Bulls' Michael Jordan. Thibault often positions himself at press box level during games, i.e., above the court, to get a perspective of what the Bulls and their opponents are doing. Red Auerbach recently led a sport-related seminar at the Harvard Business School. Among others who took part were Donald Fehr, head of the Baseball Players' Association, and Robert Berry, Law Professor from Boston College.

The Bird Legend, and the term "legend" is being increasingly associated with the Hoosier nowadays, continued at the clinic co-hosted by Polaroid and the C's for the YMCA of the Greater Boston area, March 2nd. Arriving late for the affair, Larry took off his jacket, and wearing his Celtics 33 jersey and corduroy jeans, proceeded to immediately swish 9 of 10 3-point field goal shots. Without a practice try...Over 1500 youngsters attended. Before the clinic, Robert Parish and Bill Walton made an appearance at a breakfast hosted by the Polaroid Corporation.

David Thirkill is impressed with his alma mater's sophomore guard, Hersey Hawkins. The 6-3 Bradley collegian reminds Thirkill of Sidney

Moncrief. Jeff Twiss, Celtics PR Director, was busy before the team left on the Texas trip; Greg Kite, Houston native, had a heavy ticket request for the Celtics' March 11th game in the Summit. Eddie Bird broke Larry Bird's scoring record at Springs Valley High School in French Lick last week.

Cedric Maxwell compared the situation in Los Angeles to that of playing with the Celtics when he visited here, February 28th. "The Celtics get the calls because they're an established team. We don't have the reputation as a competitive team so the referees see us as creating fouls, rather than being fouled." Phoenix was attempting to sit Rick Robey down for most of the regular season, but the former Celtic has gone public in his protest. "There's nothing wrong with me," he stated. Robey is in the final year of his contract and he may be facing a hard fight in trying to win a job with a team next season. The remainder of this season is important for him. Kyle Macy, disgruntled himself about lack of consistent playing time in Chicago, fears the worst for his former teammate. Macy played with Robey at the University of Kentucky and in Phoenix.

Johnny Kerr, color commentator for Chicago Bulls' telecasts offers this about Larry Bird: "I think Larry has to get weary of all the media attention. I just marvel at him, enjoy observing him and try not to be like all journalists who are after the perfect story."

Rick Weitzman, Celtics scout and columnist for Celtics Pride recently did play-by-play of the Celtics games on Sportschannel with Tommy Heinsohn when regular announcer Mike Gorman was hosting The Big East tournament March 5-8. Jan Volk, team GM, told Glenn Orday that the Celtics would listen to any offer, if the terms were reasonable when the draft neared. "The difference would be if we were in the lottery," Volk pointed out. "There's a considerable difference in market value of the choice, depending where you select."

Globe writer Bob Ryan was a guest on WNBC, New York, last week. He declared the psych war between the Lakers and the Celtics has begun. "After the Celts defeated LA in The Forum, the Lakers to a man said Boston was now the team to beat. That puts the pressure on the Celtics; after all, the Lakers are still the champions and are still capable of defeating Boston in the finals. Intentionally or not, they are putting the Celtics in the position which is really the Lakers'."

March 7, at Boston
Celtics 115, New York 108

The fast-breaking Celtics had the running game going to perfection in the third quarter, using a 24-7 surge to breeze past the injury-riddled Knicks.

During the spurt, Danny Ainge scored 10 points, Kevin McHale blocked a couple of shots and Bill Walton cleared the defensive boards. This win gave the C's a 50-win season for the seventh straight year.

"Walton was their inspiration," New York Coach Hubie Brown said. "Walton and McHale started blocking shots and the Celtics started fast-breaking."

Celtics Coach K.C. Jones was tagged with two technicals and bounced from the premises in the second quarter, and assistant Jimmy Rodgers took over the ship.

"The emphasis we put on was for the defense to get more active," Rodgers said. "Our guards got up on them and forced them to put the ball on the floor and drive. Then our big men blocked the shots."

The Celtics, who trailed by 11 points in the second quarter (when Jones was ejected) received balancing scoring. McHale scored 20, Dennis Johnson 19, Larry Bird 16,

Celtics 115, Knicks 108

NEW YORK

Thornton 1-1 4-4 6, Orr 3-9 7-7 13, Bailey 6-11 2-2 14, Sparrow 7-17 3-3 17, Wilkins 3-7 1-1 7, Walker 1-6 0-0 2, Bannister 5-11 4-6 14, Tucker 3-8 4-4 10, Grunfeld 2-5 4-4 9, McNeely 6-10 1-3 13, Coffey 2-4 0-0 4, Totals 39-89 30-34 106.

BOSTON

McHale 6-11 8-11 20, Bird 7-6 1-1 16, Parish 3-6 2-2 8, Johnson 6-10 7-9 19, Ainge 7-11 0-0 14, Wedman 4-10 0-0 8, Sichting 4-5 2-2 10, Walton 6-7 3-3 15, Kite 0-2 0-0 0, Carlisle 0-2 0-0 0, Thirkill 1-1 2-2 4, Vincent 0-2 1-2 1, Totals 44-83 26-32 115.

New York

33 22 22 31-108
Boston 28 37 18-115

Three-point goals—Bird, Fouled out—None. Rebounds—New York 45 (McNeely 9), Boston 54 (Walton 12). Assists—New York 22 (Sparrow 6), Boston 30 (Johnson, Bird 8). Total fouls—New York 23, Boston 25. Technicals—Boston illegal defense 2, Boston Coach Jones 2 (ejected), Boston assistant coach Ford. A—14,890.

Mavericks 116, Celtics 115

BOSTON

McHale 4-11 1-3 9, Bird 18-33 10-11 50, Parish 7-12 0-2 14, Johnson 8-18 3-5 19, Ainge 5-9 2-2 12, Wedman 1-3 0-0 2, Walton 2-5 1-2 5, Sichting 2-5 0-0 4, Carlisle 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 47-96 17-25 115.

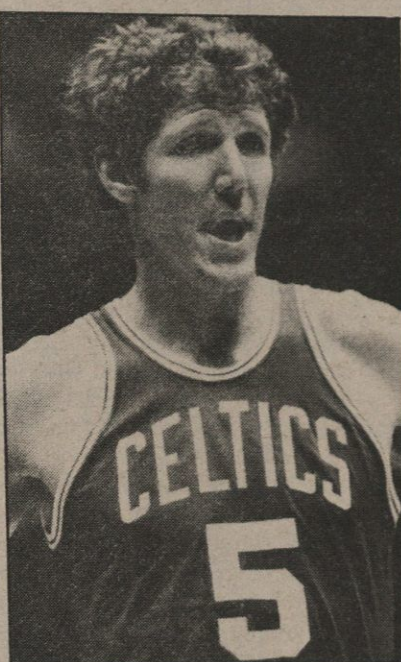
DALLAS

Vincent 1-7 2-4 4, Perkins 9-15 6-7 24, Donaldson 3-5 0-0 6, Davis 6-8 5-5 18, Blackman 10-20 12-13 32, Schrempf 1-5 2-3 4, Ellis 2-8 1-2 7, Harper 3-5 0-0 6, Wengington 2-7 8-12, Blab 1-1 2-3, Totals 38-81 37-44 116.

Boston

27 28 31 29-115
Dallas 36 18 27 35-116

Three-point goals—Bird 4, Ellis 2, Davis, Fouled out—Parish, Johnson. Rebounds—Boston 61 (Parish 16), Dallas 46 (Donaldson 11). Assists—Boston 23 (Johnson 6), Dallas 23 (Davis 10). Total fouls—Boston 32, Dallas 20. A—17,007.



Bill Walton: Inspiration.

Walton 15 and Robert Parish scored 14. Walton had 12 rebounds.

Meanwhile, Rindge & Latin High School product Patrick Ewing was on the sidelines with a sore knee. He will not play again this season.

"My knee is killing me," said Ewing, a former Cambridge resident. "I've had jumper's knee before, but this feels like something different. I think I'm going to have to sit out a few weeks." Ultimately he went under arthroscopic surgery.

March 10, at Dallas
Dallas 116, Celtics 115

Larry Bird came into Texas with both six-shooters blazing, and fired in 50 points. But in the end, he wasn't too happy. For the first time since Dallas entered the NBA in 1980, it beat Boston.

"No big deal. I should have had 54 points," Bird said. "If you play a team long enough, losing is finally going to happen. The shots were there for me and I just took them."

Mavericks Coach Dick Motta was

Celtics 116, Rockets 104

BOSTON

Bird 11-18 7-12 31, McHale 11-20 3-5 25, Parish 7-9 0-0 14, Ainge 2-6 1-1 5, Johnson 10-18 5-6 25, Kite 0-1 0-0 0, Sichting 1-5 0-0 2, Walton 3-4 1-2 7, Wedman 2-3 0-0 5, Carlisle 3-4 0-0 2, Totals 48-86 17-26 116.

HOUSTON

McCray 8-12 1-1 17, Peterson 4-8 1-2 9, Sampson 10-18 3-6 23, Lloyd 6-18 4-4 16, Lucas 9-16 2-2 20, Reid 4-13 2-2 10, Wiggins 2-4 1-2 5, Leavelle 2-4 0-0 4, Elio 0-1 0-0 0, Harris 0-0 0-0 0, McDowell 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 45-95 14-19 104.

Boston

36 33 28 21-116
Houston 33 28 26 17-104

Three-point goals—Bird 2, Wedman, Fouled out—Reid. Rebounds—Boston 59 (Walton 16), Houston 43 (Peterson, Sampson 12). Assists—Boston 35 (Bird 10), Houston 32 (Lloyd, Lucas 9). Total fouls—Boston 19, Houston 20. Technical—Lucas. A—16,016.

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW

much happier: "We survived one of Bird's clinics, you have to feel fortunate. I knew we'd beat them sooner or later whether it was me here or Rip Van Winkle."

Two free throws by Brad Davis with 43 seconds remaining gave the Mavs a 111-110 lead. Twenty-seven seconds later, Dale Ellis hit a three point shot. Two free throws by Rolando Blackman with eight seconds to play iced the game for Dallas. The Celtics were up, 104-91 in the third quarter, thanks to 17 Bird points in that quarter, but failed to hold the lead.

March 11 at Houston
Celtics 116, Houston 104

Moving over to Houston, Bird ripped the Rockets for 31 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds. Dennis Johnson and Kevin McHale scored 25 points apiece for the C's, who led nearly the entire way.

Ralph Sampson scored 23 points for the Rockets and John Lucas chipped in 20.

March 13, at San Antonio
Celtics 135, Spurs 113

Larry Bird scored 31 of his 33 points in the first half, leading the Celtics to an 80-69 advantage after the first 24 minutes. Boston tacked on 11 additional points to that edge by the time the third quarter ended, enabling Coach K.C. Jones to give the starters some much-needed rest.

Kevin McHale helped out offensively with 24 points and Robert Parish had 17. Bird also grabbed 11 rebounds.

Mike Mitchell had 30 points for the Spurs. Jeff Lamp scored 25.

March 14, at Atlanta
Celtics 121, Atlanta 114

The Celtics used 26 points from Larry Bird and 24 points and 12 rebounds by Kevin McHale to vanquish the hot Hawks. It was the

12th straight time Boston has beaten the Hawks at the Omni, and the first loss for Atlanta on its home court in 14 games.

Bird's three-point field goal and pair of free throws late in the fourth quarter iced the game.

The Celtics withstood a 42-point barrage by Hawks forward Dominique Wilkins. Robert Parish added 18 for Boston, and Bill Walton came off the bench to throw in 17.

March 16, at Boston
Celtics 118, Philadelphia 101

A 20-7 Celtics surge, led by Dennis Johnson and Danny Ainge, broke open a close game in the third quarter, leading Boston to its fourth win in five tries over Atlantic Division foe Philadelphia.

Johnson scored 14 points and Ainge added 10. The Celtics high scorer was Larry Bird, who scored a game-high 35 points (shooting 16 of 25 from the floor) and also pulled down 14 rebounds. Kevin McHale helped out with 22 points.

It was the 20th straight win at the Garden for the Celtics, one short of the team record of 21, set five years ago.

Moses Malone scored 18 points for Philadelphia.

Celtics 121, Hawks 114

BOSTON

Bird 10-16 5-5 26, McHale 8-11 8-8 24, Parish 7-12 4-5 18, Ainge 7-13 2-2 16, Johnson 4-11 3-4 11, Walton 5-6 7-9 17, Sichting 4-5 1-1 9, Wedman 0-3 0-0 0, Carlisle 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 45-77 30-34 121.

ATLANTA

Wilkins 17-32 8-11 42, Willis 5-11 0-0 10, Rollins 6-10 2-2 14, Webb 3-7 0-1 6, Wittman 5-11 1-2 11, Battle 4-7 3-3 11, Davis 2-4 2-2 6, Koncak 5-9 0-0 10, Livingston 2-3 0-2 4, Totals 49-93 16-23 114.

Boston

33 28 28 32-121
Atlanta 30 36 29 19-114

Three-point goal—Bird, Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 43 (McHale 12), Atlanta 44 (Rollins 10). Assists—Boston 28 (Johnson 9), Atlanta 28 (Webb 8). Total fouls—Boston 20, Atlanta 28. Technical—Livingston, Boston illegal defense. A—16,522.

Celtics 118, 76ers 101

PHILADELPHIA

Erving 4-12 5-5 13, Barkley 4-10 4-8 13, Malone 6-14 6-9 18, Threatt 7-10 0-0 14, Cheeks 5-9 1-1 11, McAdoo 4-10 1-2 9, Moss 1-4 5-7 7, C. Johnson 3-5 0-0 8, Catledge 4-8 0-0 8, Green 0-5 0-0 0, Stokes 0-0 2-2 2, Totals 38-87 24-34 101.

BOSTON

McHale 10-14 2-6 22, Bird 16-25 1-2 36, Parish 3-7 2-4 8, D. Johnson 6-12 2-2 14, Ainge 4-7 1-2 10, Sichting 5-8 0-0 11, Walton 1-1 3-4 5, Carlisle 1-1 0-0 2, Wedman 3-5 0-0 6, Kite 0-1 0-0 0, Vincent 1-5 2-2 4, Thirkill 0-2 0-0 0, Totals 50-88 13-22 118.

Philadelphia

27 23 22 25-101
Boston 25 28 33 32-118

Three-point goals—Bird 3, Barkley, Ainge, Sichting. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 53 (Barkley 12), Boston 43 (Bird 14). Assists—Philadelphia 16 (Cheeks 9), Boston 32 (D. Johnson 7). Total fouls—Philadelphia 23, Boston 22. Technicals—Philadelphia illegal defense, Barkley, Bird. A—14,890.

MARCH...
up to WILDCAT

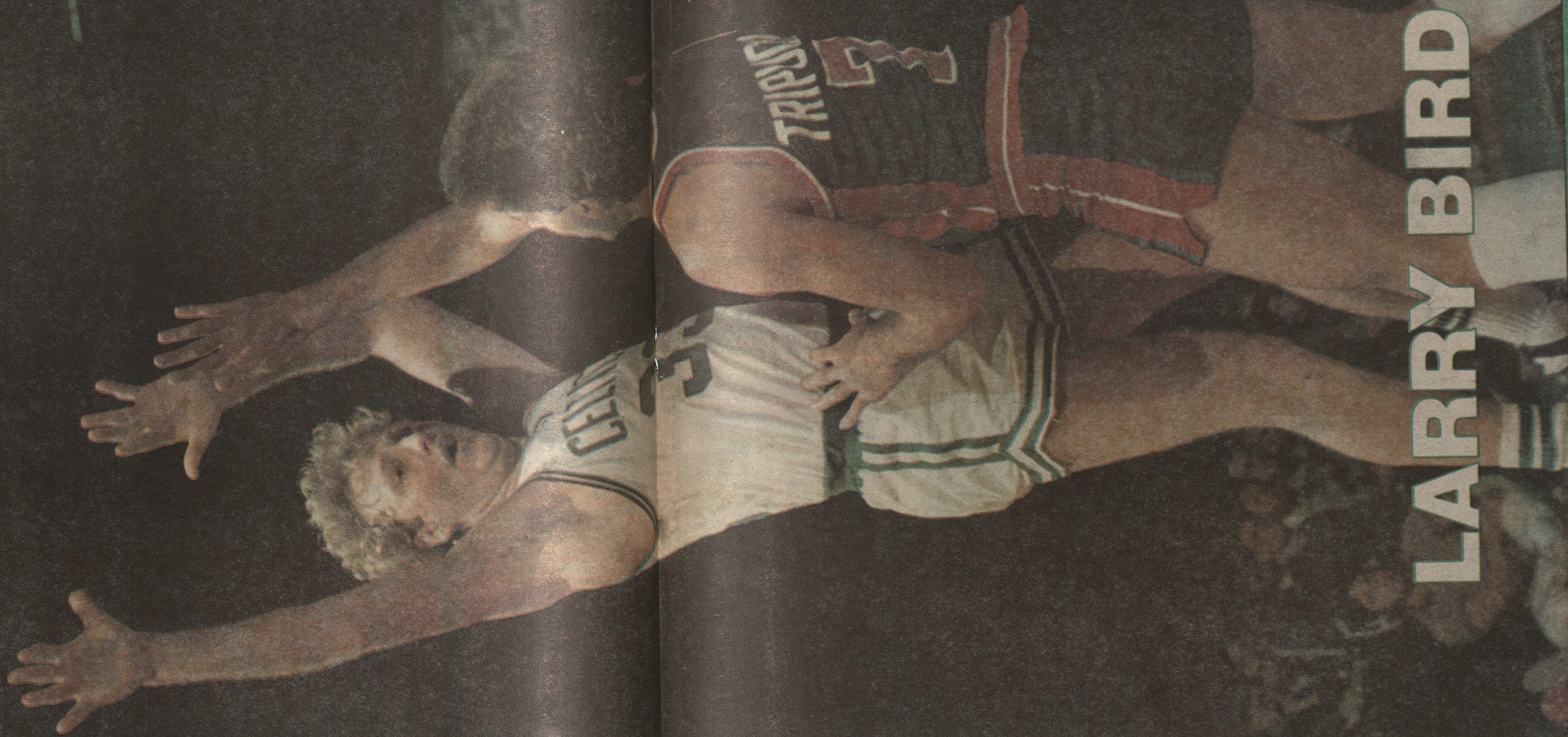
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LARRY BIRD

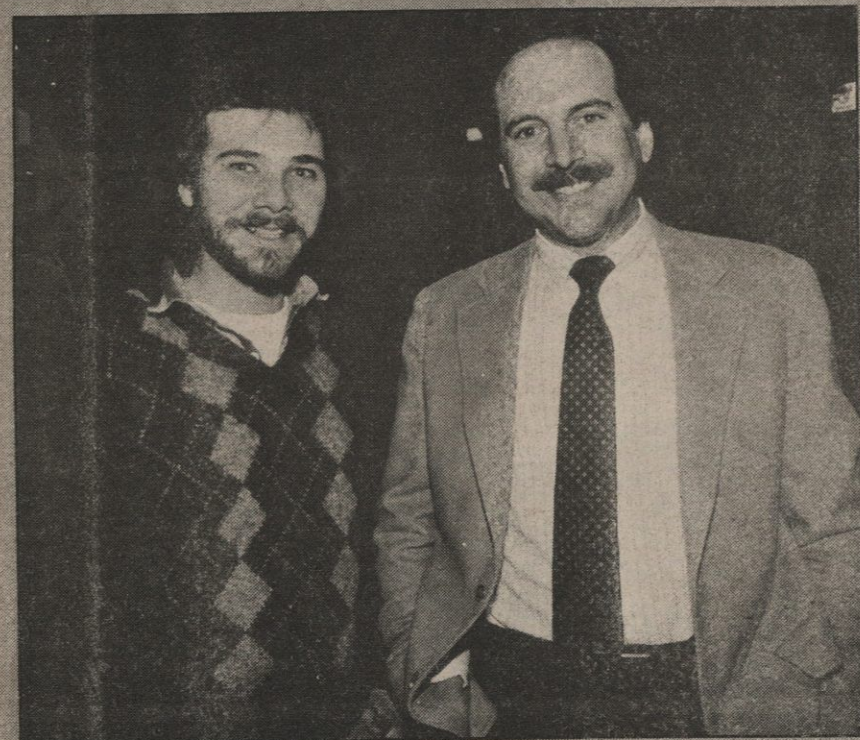


Glenn Ordway

Same Old Story — Bird's the Best

After witnessing Larry Bird's latest march through Texas, I'm thoroughly convinced that #33 goes out of his way to display his best in those Western Conference cities. Bird knows that those fans only see him once and he makes sure they don't forget him...Notice that Bird has now developed a new aspect to his game? It's called the three point "emotional

harpoon." When Larry is convinced in the final minutes of a game that he has the opposition on the ropes, he fires up a three pointer as if to stick a stake in their heart. It works!!!...We were greeted in every Western Conference city with the now familiar "Bird is the Best" newspaper story. Sorry, no new revelations. Matter of fact, Larry told me last week that he's getting sick and tired of the abundan-



Celtics Marketing and Communications Director Tod Rosensweig congratulates Fan of the Month Mike Naimo.

Mike Naimo Polaroid Fan of the Month

In attendance at the Boston Garden for the game between the Celtics and the New York Knicks on Friday, March 7th was the latest winner of the Polaroid/Boston Celtics Fan of the Month contest, Mike Naimo of Allston, Mass. As the Fan of the Month, Mr. Naimo received two tickets to the game, a night at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Boston, limousine transportation to and from the game courtesy of Boston Livery Service, an official Celtics Starter jacket, an autographed team basketball and a Polaroid Sun 660 Autofocus camera with film.

You can enter the Boston Celtics/Polaroid Fan of the Month contest at any Claus Gelotte store and get the royal treatment from Polaroid, the official instant camera of the Boston Celtics.



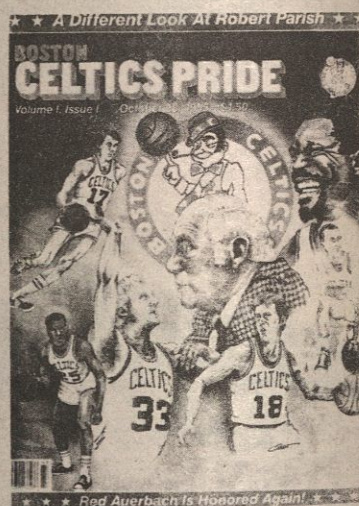
Larry Bird: "Emotional harpoon".

ce of adulation. Is there anything we still don't know about the guy from French Lick? Nope. According to Larry, Every aspect of his life has been revealed. "The public knows as much about me as I do, there are no skeletons in my closet"...Is it me or had Philadelphia become a Charles Barkley dominated team? We have become so accustomed to watching Dr. J and Moses lead this club, that it has almost become sacrilegious to witness the Tub's heroics. But when he is out of the lineup, the Sixers become just another mediocre team...Watch for Atlanta to beat out Philadelphia for the 3rd spot in the Eastern Conference. The Hawks have great size up front (three seven footers) in Tree Rollins, Kevin Willis and Jon Koncak and a capable point guard tandem in Doc Rivers and Spud Webb. And or course the much improved Dominique Wilkins. While Philly may suffer a slight emotional letdown in the last month as they prepare their aging bodies for the second season, Atlanta should zoom in the fast lane enjoying the fruits of success for the very first time. They could be a major factor in the playoffs. Don't be surprised if the Celtics road to Los Angeles goes through Cleveland, Philadelphia and Atlanta. And in that order. On the other hand,

Houston's loss of John Lucas this past week has certainly lightened up the Lakers trek to the finals. As if it wasn't an easier road to begin with... San Antonio has a unique pay TV deal. Unlike Sportschannel and other NBA team cable services where you pay a monthly fee for the privilege of watching your teams games in San Antonio, you pay \$7 per game to watch Alvin Robertson and the Spurs. Each cable TV box is addressable. You elect the games you want to see and the Pay TV company turns on your box for those games and bills you accordingly. There didn't seem to be much resistance to paying the seven bucks for the Celtics game but the following night the Spurs were in Utah and David Horowitz would have had a field day dealing with the consumers on this one...Is it fair to honor someone as the "Rookie of the Year" when they've played only 50 games? With the injury to Patrick Ewing I've got to seriously consider Seattle's Xavier McDaniel as my choice now. Yet, despite a terrific year, has he transformed the Sonics into a better ballclub? Then how about the choice of Spud Webb? You can make a serious argument out of the fact that the NBA's darling midget has made the Atlanta Hawks a better ballclub. But is it fair to select a non-starter? And the questions just keep on coming...

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More Bests on the Local College Hoop Scene

by Rick Weitzman

As the 1985-86 New England college basketball season writes its final chapter, it's time to make my final awards. These, however, are unique and from a scout's peculiar perspective. I see so many games in so many places that sometimes the subtle amenities make the job a lot easier. Now, you might think that a game is a game and there is some truth to that, but the way you see that game can make all the difference. These awards are to recognize some of those niceties. Keep in mind that I frequent Boston College, Providence, Northeastern, Boston University, and Holy Cross primarily, so the awards have that flavor.

Best Arena: The Providence Civic Center wins this hands down. It is simply a pleasure walking into the building. Even the ticket sellers are friendly. Holy Cross' Hart Center is also a pleasant place.

Best Parking Areas: B.U.'s lot across the street from Walter Brown Arena is convenient and always has plenty of room (mainly because there aren't enough people inside the arena). B.C.'s garage also makes things easy. Toughest parking is at Holy Cross where you might have to walk uphill a ways and at Providence where construction forces you to view the downtown sites before you reach the Civic Center.

Best Press Room: Providence (they're the only ones that offer cold cuts and sodas to members of the fourth estate, but don't be late). B.U. is the only other place that offers a serviceable and accessible press room.

Best Seating Arrangements: Providence, B.U., and Northeastern generally seat me at the press table courtside. B.C. has no midcourt press table but they do the best they can.

Worst Seating Arrangements: The Hall of Fame Game in Springfield. They make it very difficult to get a ticket and the seats are not advantageous from a scout's perspective. They don't exactly welcome you with open arms.

Best Concession Stand: For variety, Providence. The best popcorn, Northeastern. Absolutely nothing touches the hot dogs at the Worcester Auditorium where the Bay State Bombardiers of the CBA play.

Best Media Guide: Tough choice when the locals are compared to the nationals. The best ones I've seen this year are Villanova's and West Virginia's.

Best Mascot: I like the Syracuse Orange-it and the Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket. I wasn't crazy about the Providence Friar last year but I

found myself looking for him this year. None compare to Captain P.J. of the Bay State Bombardiers, the only mascot to be suspended (he slid into a referee during a time-out).

Best Cheerleaders: Uh-uh. No way will I pick just one group. Those acrobatic kids work too hard.

The Coldest Arena: Walter Brown Arena (always a deference to hockey there), not enough cushion between the ice and your feet.

Quickest Game Stats: I've never timed this but it's probably B.C.'s crack crew. This is an important award because it means a quicker getaway for the scout.

Best Half Time Interviewer:

amazes me. What is wrong with their student populations that they can't turn out for exciting, winning teams?

Best Cheerleaders: Uh-uh. No way will I pick just one group. Those acrobatic kids work too hard.

The Coldest Arena: Walter Brown Arena (always a deference to hockey there), not enough cushion between the ice and your feet.

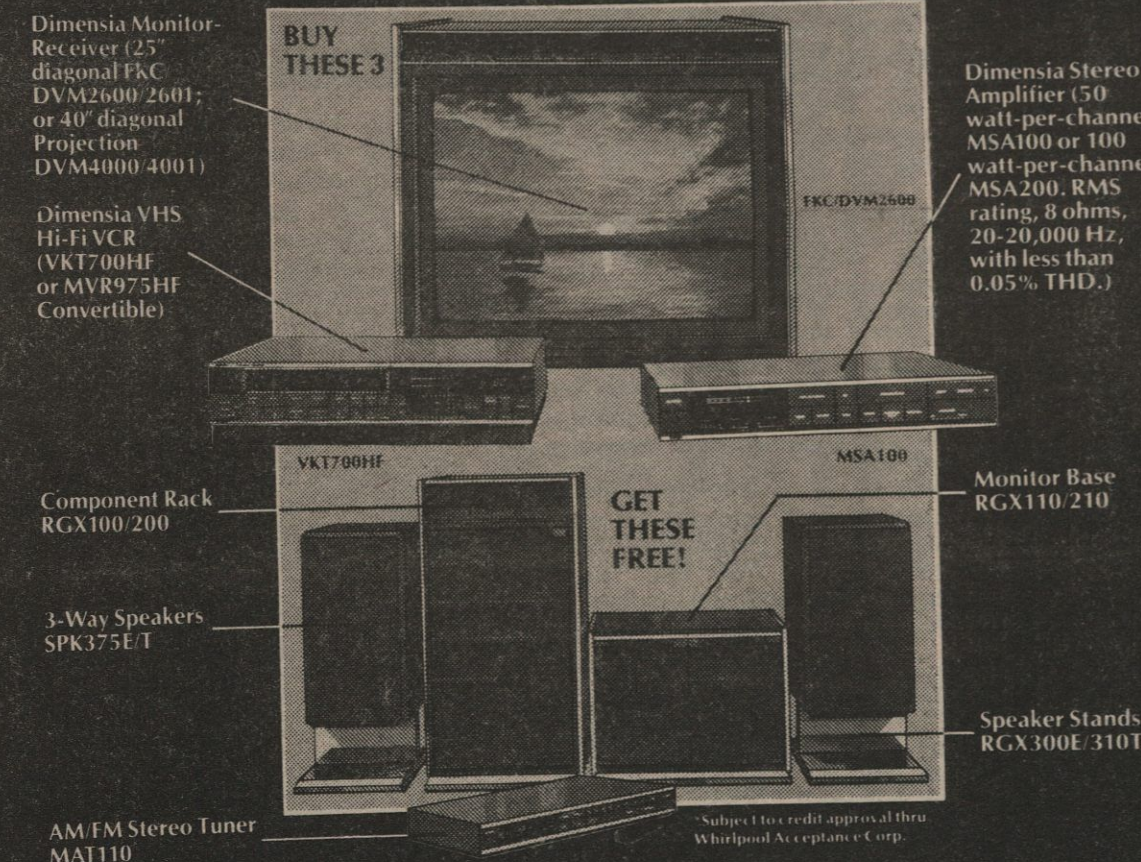
Quickest Game Stats: I've never timed this but it's probably B.C.'s crack crew. This is an important award because it means a quicker getaway for the scout.

Best Half Time Interviewer:

Although Alan Segal, Kenny Hudson, Bruce Ryder, and Ted Sarandis all do exemplary jobs, the most in-depth questions were asked by Scott Boyages who does Holy Cross games.

Best Sports Information Director: Kudos to John Conceison and Reid Oslin of B.C., John Marinotta of Providence, Eddie McGrath of B.U., Northeastern's Jack Grinold, Greg Burke of Holy Cross, Harvard's Ed Markey, and UMass' Howie Davis. You guys do an absolutely tremendous job and don't get enough credit. I appreciate your making my job easier.

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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Bank of Boston Launches

"M.L. Carr Challenge: Stand Tall Against Drugs"

Bank of Boston announced a new, positive program to fight drug abuse among Massachusetts youth. Called "The M.L. Carr Challenge: Stand Tall Against Drugs," the program is headed by Bank of Boston goodwill ambassador and former Boston Celtics star M.L. Carr.

The Bank-sponsored program will feature junior high school visits by M.L. during which he will deliver an upbeat message on self-respect, pride, two-way communication and mutual trust. He will urge students to direct their energies into constructive activities, to make their own decisions and to "put their strength to work for themselves" in everything they set out to do.

"In view of the enormous publicity associated with drugs in various professional sports recently," said M.L., "I feel it's especially important that sports figures like myself publicly try to encourage young people to 'Stand Tall Against Drugs.'"

The program is designed to galvanize students' attention to anti-drug programs within the schools, to promote innovative activities around M.L.'s visit and to generate long-term community interest in and support for drug education programs.

M.L. announced that he will visit seven schools before the end of this school year, beginning with the following schools: Bartlett Magnet School in Lowell on March 17, Cohannet Middle School in Taunton on April 8, and Gallagher Junior High School in Leominster on May 6.

The former Celtics forward will help students realize that friends can sometimes exert pressure to do negative things like try drugs. Acknowledging the temptations that youngsters can face, M.L. maintains that they should instead form a network of support for each other. He



Ira Stepanian, President of the Bank of Boston, M.L. Carr and Governor Dukakis.

issues this challenge: "Join my 'team' and let's 'Stand Tall Against Drugs' together!"

"I visited a number of schools with Governor Dukakis during '85 for the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs, and the interest in such a program was very evident," said M.L. "Young people are under heavy pressure to conform, and sometimes that means trying drugs. 'Stand Tall' offers them an alternative."

Every student attending a "Stand Tall" assembly will receive a "Stand Tall" button and "Tips" sheet from M.L. The "Tips" advise youngsters on how to cope with peer pressure and stay away from drugs and offer suggestions to parents on how to

prevent drug use among their children and how to spot early warning signs of drug use.

Each school will be given "Tips" posters and a banner--actually a large, 28"x 58" white towel inscribed with the green "Stand Tall" logo -- to symbolize M.L.'s towel-waving "cheerleader" role with the Boston Celtics.

"I'm very concerned with this problem among our young people, and it's not helped by the use of drugs among professional athletes," added M.L. "Kids need to know that most pro athletes do not use or abuse drugs."

"I'm here to rally students against drug use, and to make sure they understand that true friends -- like good teammates -- don't push each other into experimenting with drugs. Instead, they support each other in resisting drugs, particularly when it may seem like the 'cool' thing to do is to try them."

Bank of Boston President Ira Stepanian said: "We at Bank of Boston have seen the tremendous impact that M.L. has had on young people since his association began with us last June. That's why we decided to develop 'The M.L. Carr Challenge: Stand Tall Against Drugs' program."

"Through our many youth programs, both in and out of school, Bank of Boston has long played an active role in working with communities and organizations throughout Massachusetts on positive, educational programs that

help young people become responsible, productive adults. 'The M.L. Carr Challenge: Stand Tall Against Drugs' further extends our involvement in this important arena that includes our endowment to the Boston Plan for Excellence in Public Schools, 'Shoot Straight' basketball clinics, child safety programs and sponsorship of the Bay State Games."

Governor Michael S. Dukakis, who joined Bank of Boston and M.L. for the announcement at the Boston Garden, pledged his support of the program.

"High school students I spoke with over the past year convinced me that in offering young people the 'whys?' and 'hows?' to resist drugs and alcohol, we are often too late if we wait for them to reach high school," said the Governor. "As any parent or teacher knows, young people are adventurous and try all sorts of things before they know the dangers."

"The 'Stand Tall' program helps to address this problem by targeting young people before it's too late to make a difference."

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Drug Rehabilitation conducted a survey of drug and alcohol abuse among high school students in the fall of 1984. The results indicated that drug and alcohol abuse was widespread, and that preliminary results from a survey of seventh and eighth grade students showed there was considerable substance use among them as well.

It found that 55 percent of the high school students used alcohol 10 or more times, 29 percent used marijuana 10 or more times and five percent used cocaine 10 or more times.

Among 262 seventh and eighth graders, 63 percent had used alcohol, inhalants (18%), marijuana (15%), amphetamines (10%), tranquilizers (7%) and cocaine (6%).

Lowell's Bartlett Magnet School is an example of the tremendous response to the program.

"Our school is rocking with excitement in anticipation of M.L. Carr's visit," said Lisa Bryant, assistant principal at Bartlett. "We have planned a number of activities around his session, such as a 'Stand Tall' artwork display and a writing contest on the meaning of M.L. Carr's remarks, to make a more lasting impression on the students."

Information letters will be sent in April to all Massachusetts school superintendents for fall '86 and spring '87 semesters. Selections will be based on the level of interest in drug education and what is planned to enhance a visit by Carr.

Bank of Boston's "Stand Tall" program supports the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs. M.L. will also continue to work with the Alliance and the Governor to build awareness for the need for drug and alcohol education in the schools.

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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE



Eddie Gillooly

Hidden Defense!

When Cedric Maxwell was traded to the Clippers there was immediate concern the Celtics would have serious problems throughout the season containing the opposition's quick forward, a chore that Max handled unselfishly during his years in Boston.

It was to be the one weakness the club would have to overcome in the 1985-86 season. Sly Williams was signed and groomed as a defensive specialist. He was to be the player K.C. Jones could call on to shut down the Dominique Wilkins of the league.

Williams didn't last long and free agent David Thirdkill, the last player cut in the training camp, was rehired and assumed the responsibilities that were prescribed for Williams. The basic requirements of the job are to play defense, hit the boards and try not to foul up the offense.

Thirdkill has made some contributions in the role during the course of the season but his playing time has been very limited because the weakness everyone feared has never surfaced due to the Celtics experience in playing team defense.

The key reason in negating the so-called weakness is the adjustments K.C. Jones makes in personnel and strategy during a game. Jones is conscious of matchups but not to the point that he lets it dictate what he wants his team to accomplish on the court.

When he observes one of his players encountering difficulty covering a certain player, Jones will have his guards pressure the ball to a slow down the attack or help the player with double teaming tactics. Other times he'll make subtle personnel reassignments.

Another factor in covering up the feared weakness is the basketball intelligence of Larry Bird and Bill Walton. There's no one in the game today who possesses the savvy of

these two performers on the court.

Although Bird and Walton lack the speed of the quick forwards, they get the job done on defense through instinct and positioning. Both are aggressive and have strong hands. But most of all, they are physical and the opponents know they'll have to pay the price.

Jones' defense is based on the fact there are some players who cannot be contained on man-to-man defense. His concept is a switching defense and occasional doubling the ball.

The fact that Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and Walton are excellent shot blockers enhances the defensive strategy because the guards can gamble knowing they'll get help if they get beaten.

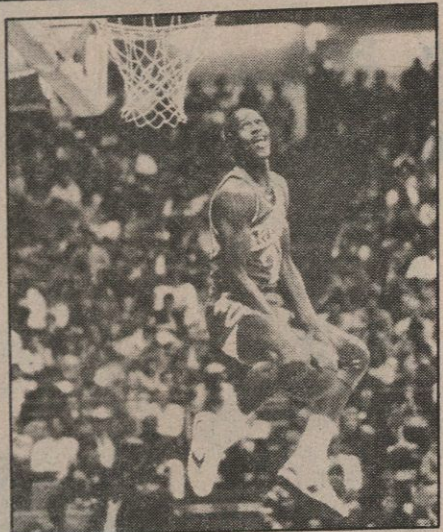
It's a rarity when you see the opposing teams executing successful back door plays against the Celtics. When a player gets picked off, there's usually another Celtic ready to pick up his man.

There have been games this year when the opposition's quick forward has burned the Celtics just as Wilkins did in a recent game in Atlanta but he probably would have had the same success against Maxwell or any other defensive specialist.

Years ago when Satch Sanders was regarded as one of the top defensive forwards in basketball, Elgin Baylor of the Lakers scored 61 points against him and the Celtics. After the contest, Coach Red Auerbach praised Sanders' work. "With the night Elgin was having, he would have scored 100 points if we didn't have Satch to guard him."

There are times too when the Celtics force the offense to the opposition's top scorer. The theory is two-fold. The first is that the scorer's teammates will stand around and watch the scorer take control, and secondly, the scorer will tire and be ineffective down the stretch.

In the two games against the



Dominique: Could be a problem.

Lakers this season, Jones utilized three centers to wear down the aging Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. In between Parish and Walton, K.C. sent in Greg Kite to put some muscle on Jabbar.

Kite was very effective in both outings.

Jabbar was noticeably weary in the fourth period of each game when the Celtics were taking control. If the two clubs meet in the playoffs again this year, K.C. will employ the same strategy.

While Jones' forte is defense, it doesn't diminish his understanding of the team's offense. He is extremely quick in recognizing when a player is tiring or when the team gets away from the game plan.

Whenever his club gets caught up in a run-and-gun game without any pre-conceived notion of where their teammates are, Jones will call for timeout and get the team back on the track.

His message in the huddle is a simple one. Be patient and get the ball into the low post for an easy basket. In other words, move the ball, set some picks and get a man open. Don't force the shot.

After most games, Dennis Johnson, Larry Bird or some other player will comment, "once we started to do what the coach wanted us to do, we turned the game around."

K.C. Jones knew the Celtics had a weakness on defense at the quick forward position but he hasn't allowed it to become a factor. He's compensated with personnel and strategy.

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Sonics Update

The Seattle SuperSonics continued to fall behind in their chase for the final Western Conference play-off spot. The top eight teams in each conference make the post-season play-offs. If the team fails to do so, it qualifies for the draft lottery at the end of the regular year.

The Sonics' performance is of interest to the Celtics. Boston obtained the Sonics' first round choice in last season's trade of Gerald Henderson to Seattle club for the latter's 1st round selection. If the Sonics fail to make the play-offs, the Celtics would enter the lottery. The Celtics would have a possible shot at the first choice in the draft, depending on chance. Seven teams participate in the lottery.

The standings for the final spot in the Western Conference, as of March 17th, were:

	W	L	PCT
7 San Antonio	31	38	.449
8 Sacramento	30	38	.441
9 Phoenix	26	40	.394 3*
10 Seattle	25	42	.373 4½*
11 L.A. Clippers	25	43	.368 5*
12 Golden St.	23	46	.333 7½*

* Games Behind (for final play-off spot)

The Sonics' recent play has been a microcosm of their season; they have been inconsistent, lacking in depth, and inexperienced. Their inconsistency was reflected by their predictable split with Indiana (a loss at home to the 24-45 Pacers, who have managed 5 wins on the road in the season) and Golden State (a Sonic win in Oakland). The Sonics played a strong game in a loss at home to the Lakers, losing 108-106. Four nights later, the Lakers outscored the Sonics, 61-40 in the middle periods, coasting at The Forum, 105-92.

After the March 5th Pacer defeat, Coach Bernie Bickerstaff temporarily gave up hopes for making the play-offs, conceding that "the parts are not all there, yet. We just don't seem to have the intensity to do the things which winning teams need to do." The Sonics did bounce back in their following game, a 120-106 defeat of the Cavs in Seattle behind a 26-point

and 12-rebound effort from Jack Sikma.

But there were rumors last week that the Sonics were entertaining thoughts of trading the nine-year veteran center. "I love Seattle. I'm going to live here for the rest of my life, but a trade is a legitimate thing that has to be broached. If the Sonics could get some draft picks or some players it's something they have to explore," Sikma said last week in *The Sporting News*.

For the Sonics, there were more punching incidents. Against the Lakers, Tom Chambers was ejected after he and Maurice Lucas fought after falling chasing a rebound in The Forum, March 13th. That was the final contest of a four-game Sonic road trip, which they won one game. The Sonics returned home Sunday afternoon and defeated the slumping and injury-plagued Spurs, 129-115. Seattle was again paced by probable Rookie of the Year, Xavier McDaniel, who scored 25 points, pulled down 7 rebounds, 5 assists, and 4 steals. The rookie is the team's best player.

The Sonics' schedule, after the past week of home games (Utah and Golden State), shows another road trip for the team this week: Then they are in Portland, Sunday in San Antonio, Monday night in Utah, Wednesday in Phoenix, before returning home next Thursday to play the Kings. Saturday night they play the Lakers in Seattle. Through Monday, Seattle was 20-13 at home, and 5-29 on the road.

As with most teams at their level, Seattle has depth problems. After McDaniel and Chambers at F; Sikma-C; and Gerald Henderson at Guard, they have difficulty. In order to have hope for the post-season tournament, Seattle must play well on the road this week.

Sonics leading scorers:

Chambers	18.9 ppg
Sikma	17.7 ppg
McDaniel	17.0 ppg
A. Wood	13.2 ppg

Single Point Efforts For Larry Bird

DATE	SITE	OPPONENT	SCORE	POINTS
11-30-79	Boston	New York	100-97	8
12-2-79	Kansas City	Kansas City	88-94	4
1-9-80	Boston	New York	112-95	8
3-23-80	Boston	New Jersey	96-101	8
10-16-80	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	110-103	8
1-2-81	Golden St.	Golden St.	106-121	0
1-6-82	Boston	Chicago	102-116	9
1-23-83	Boston	Cleveland	105-91	3
3-11-83	New Jersey	New Jersey	93-98	8
11-16-83	Utah	Utah	109-122	8
1-15-84	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	87-106	8



Natalie Cole Sings National Anthem

Any fan knows that The National Anthem is sung or played before every sporting event. Most times, fans anticipating the start of exciting action hardly notice the performance of the song itself. On Wednesday, March 5th, however, Celtics fans were treated to a special rendition of the anthem, sung by Natalie Cole, the daughter of the legendary Nat King Cole and a highly successful pop songstress in her own right.

Natalie was in Boston to make an appearance in the Third Annual Boston Celtics Dinner and Fashion Show for the benefit of Massachusetts Special Olympics, which was held the following night. While in town, she decided to catch the game between the Celtics and the Bulls and was gracious enough to consent to sing the anthem before the game.

Her handling of "The Star Spangled Banner" was an impressive indication of her vocal range, the extent of which was more than demonstrated by her performance at the Fashion Show. Both the Celtics and Massachusetts Special Olympics are in debt to Natalie Cole for her willingness to share her talent.



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Celtics Diary

Jerry Sichting: Confidence Growing

"Jerry Sichting gives the Celtics something they lacked last season," commented Hubie Brown after the Celtics' 115-108 at the Garden, March 7. "Sichting is a reliable, tough kid who will come off the bench and hit the open shot." Brown could have said more; his Knick team, like Boston, was very interested in acquiring Sichting after the five-year veteran declared for free agency last summer.

Sichting has proven invaluable for the Celtics. He has shot remarkably well recently—63.9—and he has often been the guard for the team in productive last quarter rallies. He started several games for the team when Danny Ainge was out and there remained a continuity to what the team was doing on offense and defense.

Sichting begins his diary as the Celtics entered March; the season is approaching its climax, and the players are beginning to tire.

Boston, March 5. We defeated Chicago tonight, 108-97, for the second time in two nights in a game we should have won. When they lost Michael Jordan, they became a totally different team. Tonight Orlando Woolridge sat out, some type of contract problem, they say. You could sense they went out and played hard but without a real sense of purpose. Like they were already beaten.

These are games we should win; that is, if we want to win the regular season, championship. No let-downs when the games are there for the taking. Bird hit a back-breaking three-pointer tonight, pretty typical of his performance of the past three months. The thing about him is that though he's a superstar, he's not a prima donna. I think the team appreciates that about him. I don't know if Gene Banks of the Bulls has the same appreciation for him. There were some pretty violent collisions out there.

Boston, March 6. An easy day at the gym. K.C. challenged anybody on the team to hit a half-court shot. If the shot was good, no practice, and Bird promptly swished a set shot. The legend continues.

At this point in the year, the challenge is lifting yourself mentally. The games catch up to you, the travel seems endless, the routine monotonous. I appreciate the time with my family although I admit I haven't done too much recently. I took my wife Joni and our two sons but for dinner later that day. We're enjoying Boston and we are thinking about possibly settling here for awhile.



Jerry Sichting: "A reliable tough kid."

Washington, March 8. We split games against New York (home) and Washington (in Landover). Against the Knicks, the approach is the same. They were without Patrick Ewing, their star rookie center. They have been without Pat Cummings and Bernard King for most of the season. And Bill Cartwright has missed virtually the entire year. You have to withstand efforts of upset against teams which play with nothing to lose. Last Sunday against the Pistons, the conditions were different; the Pistons were coming into Boston on 10 wins in a row. We had to match their intensity. Against the Knicks we had to create it. We pulled away in the 3rd quarter.

Against the Bullets, an improving team, the challenge was there, that's for sure. We didn't play that badly but the Bullets played better. Manute Bol has improved a great deal; he played with more confidence and he's always a shot-blocker.

A few, and only that, come into the league in their first year as finished products. Most need experience in two ways. First, they have to know their teammates, learn their coaches' style and system. Second, rookies need to go through the league a few times, see their opponents, learn what they can and can't do. Then they should learn how they can be effective. Bol, for example, was more aggressive offensively tonight. We couldn't ignore him totally.

With it all, we could have won the game. Gus Williams made an in-

credible three-point field goal as the overtime was ending and they won, 111-108.

Dallas, March 10. Mid-way through the final quarter, I felt good about things. We were ahead by 13, Bird was shooting the ball, and we seemed to be in control. But there were dangerous signs: despite playing without Mark Aguirre, the Mavericks were playing a persistent game. We could not shake them. Then we started turning the ball over and when they rallied we couldn't regain control. I'll hand it to them; on their home floor, they pulled together and nosed us out.

It was one of the rowdiest crowds of the season, too. I think the crowd really wanted it, knowing the Mavericks had never beaten us in their history. The crowd swayed things—a lot of things. The home court advantage affected everybody on the floor.

San Antonio, March 12. I went out to dinner tonight with Don Buse; Buse is an old teammate from my first two years in the league with the Pacers. He's the assistant here with the Spurs and we talked about some of the old days. He's into coaching now and he's doing well. Hopefully I'm in the process of winning my first NBA ring.

We bounced back last night against the Rockets. Defeating them on their home floor is no easy task, even though they are missing Akeem

Olajuwon. He's been out since the All-Star break with sprained medial ligament. Players fear knee injuries in this sport. Last week I twisted an ankle before we went to Chicago. It was a practice injury, a silly move, really, but being forced to the sideline—anytime—makes you alert to the fact that careers are cherished commodities.

I have been delighted to play with the Celtics. The team has jelled as much as I could hope for. Last night indicates this; Dennis Johnson was charging through the lane and creating opportunities for our big people all night. He's a guard, but he's a ballhandling forward, too. Bill Walton was superb underneath; I respect his work on the defensive end. Against taller players like Ralph Sampson (or Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), he's constantly working, poised and crouching. Ready to spring off the balls of his feet for the maximum quickness and jump. Kevin McHale's offense was tremendous. I don't think I've seen anyone with his moves in the post—maybe Jeff Ruland at times, but his is dependent on brute strength. We got an important win, 116-104.

We're pressing on toward the regular championship, now; we can feel it, even though these are the most testing games, the ones at the end of the long race.

The Celtics are a group of unbelievable clutch players. The competitiveness of these guys is the highest. We have had a successful combination of elements working for us: experienced players playing in a winning environment. And used to winning. We have several players—several—who are used to playing in pressure situations and succeeding.

I haven't been concerned about individual statistics, just producing. Coming off the bench means contributing. A tipped ball to maintain possession is helping. A deflected pass on defense is sometimes getting the job done. Making free throws is important. Because off the bench you need to sustain team play which is working. Or picking up guys when we're getting beat.

The major job is to sustain your intensity. For example, we have changed our rotation twice recently; when Kevin was out for a month, we (players off the bench) were used for more minutes. You had to be prepared. That became even more demanding when Danny Ainge, Scott Wedman, and Walton missed some games. Now we're back to full strength, but the season is cumulative; guys up and down the lineup tire, and at different parts of the game. You must stay prepared because the minutes are important, and the league is extremely competitive.



NBA Notebook



By Terry Lyons

Several of the NBA's most talented players have been hampered by injury this season, including New York Knickerbockers rookie center **Patrick Ewing**. Ewing, sidelined since the All-Star break with a nagging "jumper's knee" problem, was found to require minor arthroscopic knee surgery to remove a small piece of floating tissue in his right knee. The loss of Ewing, the Knicks' leading scorer and rebounder, adds to the club's injury woes which include the previous loss of forward **Bernard King** (recovering from surgery on right knee), center **Bill Cartwright** (recovering from surgery on left foot) and forward **Pat Cummings** (recovering from surgery on right ankle). ... With the number of injuries occurring, NBA team doctors and trainers have banded together to study possible causes and treatments. For the past several years, all injuries suffered by NBA players have been studied, recorded in computers and disseminated to NBA clubs for reference. In addition, NBA team



Michael Jordan: Back in action.

doctors will partake in a special seminar at the next league meeting, to be held in September, and specifically discuss stress fractures which have sidelined stars like Cartwright, Philadelphia's **Andrew Toney** and Chicago's **Michael Jordan**. ... Speaking of Jordan, the Bulls' star who has been sidelined since Oct. 29, is back in action after receiving medical clearance and passing strength tests on his left foot. Jordan recently admitted that he secretly tested his foot in a game at the University of North Carolina, his alma mater. "I started gradually," said Jordan to **Roy S. Johnson** of *The New York Times*. "First I took some free throws, then some shots. We got up a couple two-on-two games, then three-on-three. Finally one of the guys in the gym started a good five-on-five game and I just got into it. At first, I went through this mental thing. 'Should I be doing this?' That was going through my mind. But as I came down the court, I couldn't feel anything wrong. As I continued to play, I could tell parts of my game were coming back."

When I finally dunked, it felt wonderful.

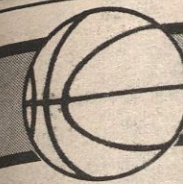
Philadelphia's **Julius Erving** has been asked a lot of questions about "Father Time" this season. Erving recently announced he would return for at least another year of NBA ball. "I know the fans will be on my side," said Erving, "but that Father Time won't be. Can I beat Father Time? I've already been beating him." ... Doctor J envisions a future one-on-one game with his youngest son **Corey**. "When I'm 50, my youngest son will be 19," said Erving recently. "I can see us playing one-on-one and him saying, 'Don't bring those old moves in here.' And that's interesting, too, because the moves are already old." ... During a recent stretch of games, the Central Division's best showed their competitiveness as Milwaukee won 13 of 15 games, Detroit 12 of 15 and Atlanta 9 of 10. Overall, that adds up to 34 wins in the teams' 38 games, out of a maximum of 36, since two games were played among each other. ... Former NBA star **Spencer Haywood** is returning to his hometown of Detroit with plans to help develop housing for the city's poor. Haywood plans to purchase and renovate several downtown Detroit buildings. ... Chicago Bulls Coach **Stan Albeck** won his 300th NBA game March 11 when the Bulls defeated New Jersey 113-100.

The Seattle SuperSonics might be on their way to becoming one of the few NBA clubs to outscore their opponents but finish under .500. The

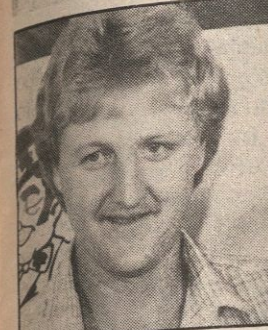
last club to do so was the 1979-80 Cleveland Cavs (37-45, .451), who outscored their opponents 114.1 to 113.8 ... The Sonics, as of March 11, had suffered 26 of 40 losses by seven points or less ... Detroit's **Isiah Thomas** recently went one-on-one with more than 3,000 teenagers as he warned "to keep a guard up" against drugs. Thomas spoke at Detroit-area schools, telling the students, "You don't have to be one of the crowd. Just be yourselves."

In Chicago, they're not talking about the Refrigerator anymore they're talking about the "Exterminator." Bulls forward **Charles Oakley** has been playing the best basketball of his young but promising career. Oakley was inserted into the club's starting lineup after injuries sidelined Bulls **Orlando Woolridge**, **Dave Corzine** and **Jawaan Oldham**. He responded by leading the club in scoring five times and rebounding 12 times during a 14-game stretch. "He's our exterminator," said Chicago Coach **Stan Albeck** of Oakley, The Edge/NBA Rookie of the Month for February. "He's Rambo, Cammando and the Terminator in one." ... As long as this topic is Chicago, the NBA's pre-draft instructional camp will be held May 28-31 at the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle. The Chicago camp helps many prospective NBA players make the adjustment to pro ball. One player who's really benefitted from the camp is New York Knickerbockers rookie **Gerald Wilkins**.

Expansion Update: On Tuesday, March 4, NBA Commissioner **David J. Stern** met with Twin Cities businessmen **Harvey Ratner** and **Marv Wolfenson** and accepted an application to the league for a future expansion franchise. A check for \$100,000 was presented to Stern as part of the official expansion application procedure which made **Minneapolis-St. Paul** the third city to officially apply for an NBA expansion franchise. The others applying to date are: **Santa Ana, California** and **Miami, Florida**. Joining in the meeting with Stern and the two prospective NBA owners were Minnesota Governor **Rudy Perpich** and former NBA great **George Mikan** who headed a task force to study the feasibility of an NBA basketball franchise in the Twin Cities. Groups from St. Louis, Toronto, Charlotte, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Orlando and Kansas City have all expressed interest in an NBA expansion franchise in addition to the three cities which have formally applied ...



Roundball Spoken Here



Larry Bird



Tommy Heinsohn

Larry Bird on why he prefers taking the final shot in tight games: "Some days when I'm practicing, I've shot as many as 2,000 times. That's why I like to take the last shot in a game, even when we're down by a point. There's been so much repetition. I feel comfortable shooting. I'll go out alone, even now, and shoot for hours."

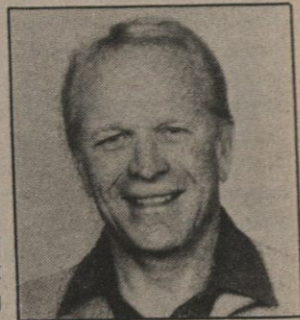
Bill Walton, Celtics 6th Man, talks about playing back-to-back games: "Back-to-back? It doesn't bother me. I like to play basketball, and I don't care who we play, or where. I'm from the John Wooden school. I don't worry about our opponents. I just worry about our game, especially when we're playing well. That isn't the time to be out on the practice floor. That's the time to be playing."



Bill Walton

Tommy Heinsohn, commenting on his selection to the Hall of Fame: "A lot of players over the years were a lot more heralded than I was, so what pleases me is that the selectors have taken into consideration that the Celtics were a team. I wasn't that involved with stats like some other people who have made it."

Cotton Fitzsimmons, San Antonio Spurs' Coach, refutes the opinion of the Celtics as a running team: "That's a joke. They'll run if you give it to them. They run off turnovers or blocked shots or if you take the jumper and the rebound comes off long. Bill Walton gives them good outlets, but they don't run off regular misses the way they used to. The running teams in this league are the Lakers, the Nuggets and especially the Rockets."

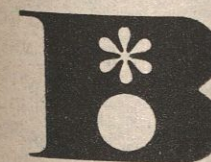


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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE
Smooth Transition for Joni Sighting

The last six months brought major changes to the Sighting family. After five years with the Indiana Pacers, Jerry entered training camp with the Celtics in the fall of 1985. Wife Joni and sons Jared and Jason arrived in Boston November 1, their first visit to the East Coast. The transition is going smoothly.
A life-long Indianapolis resident, Joni says, "It was hard to leave because most of my friends are back there, both from high school and college, as well as a lot of neighborhood friends. We were really ready for a change. Everything had gotten kind of stale there as far as the Pacers were concerned. I knew that Jerry would be a lot happier here, so it's a real fortunate situation. He was real glad to come out here, so it made the move a lot easier."
Concerning the transition from Midwest to East, Joni says they're getting used to it. "I don't have to adjust to the weather, because we didn't have great weather in Indianapolis either. Right now, in the midst of trying to find a place to live more permanently. (The family is presently renting a home in Lynnfield) When we get our house built and feel a little more stabilized, I know I'll like it more."



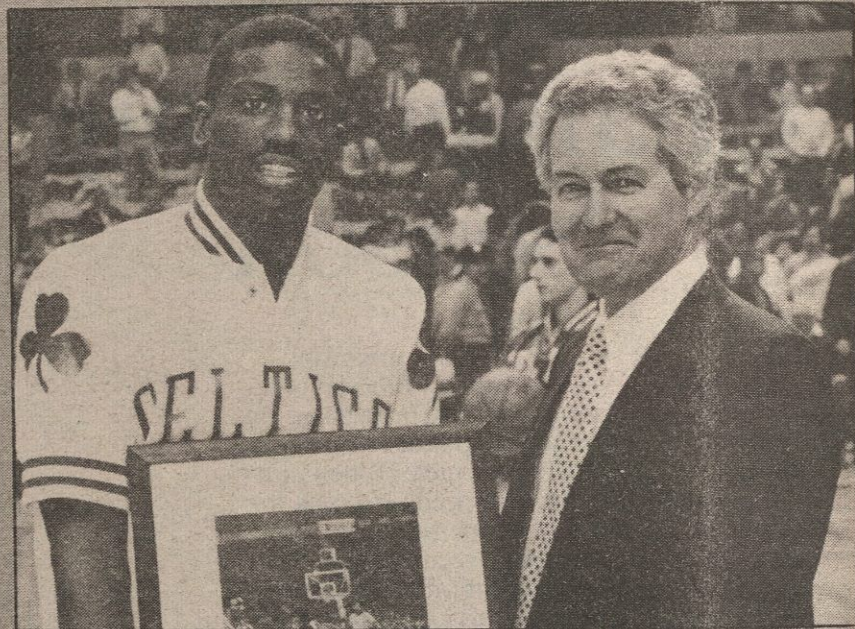
Joni: Surprised at traffic.

The biggest surprise to Joni was the Boston area traffic. She noted that there was no such thing as a traffic jam in Indianapolis, so she finds the constant greater Boston traffic mess amazing. Because three year old Jared and six month old Jason have kept her busy since her arrival, Joni looks forward to warmer weather and trips to the beach in the summer-time.
Joni met her future husband when both were students at Purdue. In their junior year, Joni, a phys-ed major, was introduced to Jerry on a blind date. The Sightings will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary in May. After graduation, Joni taught elementary school physical education for two years. Although she claims not to miss teaching, she hopes to someday work with children on a one-to-one basis. "I had just started working on my Master's degree in counselling a year ago. Then, when we left Indiana, I decided to wait until we got settled, and hopefully start again in the fall. I enjoyed teaching, because the young kids are so eager to learn at that age, but I felt frustrated with the school system."
The Sighting's plan to spend a lot of time back in Indianapolis this coming summer, selling the house they built three years ago on Indianapolis' northeast side and tying up some loose ends, visiting family and friends. Both Joni's and Jerry's families live in the Indianapolis area.

Hopefully, their new home, which they are designing, will be done in September. They have selected a site in South Natick for the colonial-contemporary structure. Joni is looking forward to the building process, although having two small children will cut down on her available time. Both she and Jerry are anxious to get the house finished. She says, "I can't wait to start picking out things for the house. I'm looking forward to it. I really think it will be fun to start over again and pick out everything new."
The Sighting's haven't really had a chance to explore Boston yet, preferring to spend Jerry's time at home enjoying the company of their boys. Joni tells us, "I really haven't had many opportunities to get into Boston, except for games, because of the baby. The way I spend my personal free time is by playing tennis, and sometimes getting out with friends. When the season is over, hopefully we'll be able to take advantage of some of the things available in Boston."
It didn't take Joni long to get used to the atmosphere of the venerable Boston Garden. "After about the third time I went to Boston Garden, I could really understand why people don't want to change it. There's an atmosphere about it, so I can imagine what people feel like who've been going there for years, if I felt that way so quickly. I don't think I'd want the Celtics to have a new place. The banners are great! I had to take pic-

tures of those and send them home right away. Everyone wanted to see them."
After five years with the Pacers, Joni is in a good position to explain the differences between the Indiana and Boston fans. She states, "It's hard to compare them. The Indiana fans are very devoted to the team, considering that they always lost. I think the Boston fans are more enthusiastic, of course, and probably more loyal, because the team does so well. They make the team feel so important and I think they're just a lot more supportive."
"Indiana fans were a little more wishy-washy. They were there when they were winning and not there when they weren't, but that could happen anywhere. It's nice to go to a game and always have a sell-out. It's a big change for us. We used to go to Indiana games and think, 'Well, how much are we going to lose by today?'. It was 'getting that bad, you kind of lost hope.'"
Joni feels that playing for a winning team has made a big difference for Jerry. In Indiana, he was coming out of the locker room discouraged, but with the Celtics, "He's having a great time. He feels good about the

team and is really enjoying it. Winning makes the difference. These guys play so well together, it's got to be more fun. Even if we weren't winning so much, they still look like they enjoy playing together. He's getting more game time than he expected and he's happy about that. It helps him play more consistently. He thought he might get more playing time in Indiana than he got here, but it's been just the opposite."
Off the court, Jerry is able to maintain a low profile. Joni explains, "It's been easier for Jerry to go out here without being recognized right away, than it was in Indiana, since he played high school, college and pro ball there. It was harder in Indiana, though it's never bothered me that much, especially for kids to come up and ask for autographs. I don't mind that at all. Out here in Lynnfield, not too many people know who he is, so that's been really nice too."
We hope that the Sighting's enjoy their anonymity now, because with Jerry's ever-increasing contributions to the Celtic's current campaign, it could quickly become a thing of the past. We welcome the Sighting family to Boston and hope that their years with the Celtics are fine ones.



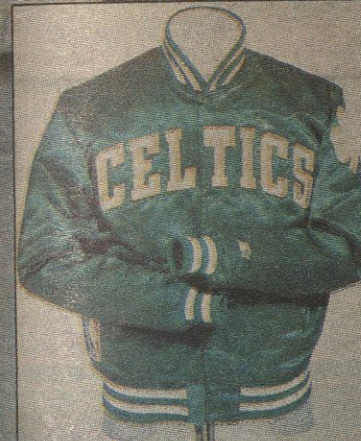
Celtics Sam Vincent Welcomed To Rookie Class of 1986

In a presentation at halftime of the Celtics game against the Chicago Bulls on March 5th, special recognition was given to Sam Vincent, the sole rookie on the Celtics' 1985-86 roster.
Al Larter, National Accounts Manager from S.C. Johnson & Son, presented Sam with a beautifully framed photograph of the Celtics rookie in action. Larter has been traveling across the country to every NBA city, representing Edge shave gel and welcoming each of the league's rookies into the 1986 rookie class.
Sam Vincent was the 1985 first-round draft choice of the Celtics (the 20th pick overall) in the 1985 draft. As a collegian at Michigan State, he was selected team MVP for three consecutive years and completed his college career as the school's third all-time leading scorer and fourth assist leader. As a senior, he led the Big 10 in scoring and was named to Sporting News' All-American first team.

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By the Numbers — March 7 - March 17

The Celtics finished the second of their two major road trips last week; they had begun the trip in Washington and lost there in overtime. Robert Parish grabbed a season-high 25 rebounds in the defeat. The Celtics lost the following contest in Dallas, despite Larry Bird's season-high 50 points. But the team rebounded; Dennis Johnson led the way in Houston with 25 points and 8 assists, and Bird sparked the win over the Spurs. Last weekend produced two major wins in this storybook regular season. The C's defeated the Hawks again in Atlanta, for the twelfth straight time in the Omni. They returned home and easily took arch-rival Philadelphia.

Kevin McHale. After scoring 9 in Dallas, he, with Johnson, led the team in the win in Houston. In 33 minutes, scored 25 with 5 rebounds and 2 blocked shots. Had started trip in Washington with 33 points and 11 rebounds. Had game-high 12 rebounds and 24 points in Atlanta. Final stats for trip: 23 ppg, 8.4 rpg, with 9 blocks. 22 points, 6 rebounds, 3 blocks vs. 76ers.

Larry Bird. Bird opened trip in Washington by shooting 10-30 from field. Despite that, he hit tying shot which sent game into OT. Came back in Dallas: 40 minutes, 18-33 FG, 10-11 FT, 11 reb., 5 assists, 1 steal, 4-7 3-point field goals in 50-point night. 31 points, 10 assists, 8 rebounds in Houston and 11-11 from field in 31 point first half to propel win in San Antonio. Key to trip was Bird's decision to begin passing more, beginning in Houston. After attempting 30 and 33 shots in first two games, he took 18, 13, and 16 shots in final three games. Sunday against 76ers: 36 points, 14 rebounds.

Robert Parish. Carried team off the boards: 25 rebounds in Washington, 16 in Dallas, 10 in Houston. Averaged 15.8 ppg with 11.4 rebounds on 5-game trip. His 25 rebounds were the most by a Celtic since Dave Cowens grabbed 25 vs. Spurs, March 25, 1977. 11 points and 15 rebounds vs. Bulls, March 5th.

Dennis Johnson. His key game in Houston: 25 points, 8 assists, 2 steals, 1 block in 116-104 win. Constantly pushed the ball upcourt and kept offense moving. Also key contributor in Atlanta; tied season-high with 9 assists, and returned home Sunday with 14-point, 7-assist, 3-steal, 2-block game. Averaged 16.8 ppg, 7.0 assists with 5 steals and 5 blocks on trip. Julius Erving: "DJ is not just a good defensive player, he's a great defensive player."

Danny Ainge. Scored 21 with 10 assists and 1 steal vs. Bulls. Followed that effort with 14-points, 8

-assist effort against New York, March 7. 10-point, 6-assist game against Spurs; best effort on trip was against Hawks: 33 minutes, 16-points, 3 assists, 1 steal, 0 turnovers.

Bill Walton. Candidate for 6th Man award. Absence noticeable in Washington, held to 5 minutes because of broken nose. Had keyed win over New York the previous night with 15-point, 12-rebound game; 5 points, 10 rebounds, 2 blocks vs. Mavs; defense against Sampson critical in Houston: he pulled down 16 rebounds (2nd high total: of season he had 17 vs. Washington, Feb. 5) in 25 minutes. 17 points, 9 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 blocks against Hawks.

Jerry Sichting. Closed Garden stand with 9 points and 2 assists with steal vs. Bulls and 10 points, 4 assists, 2 rebounds vs. New York. Critical in win over Atlanta and Philadelphia last weekend: in 24 minutes vs. Hawks 9 points, 2 assists, 2 steals. Against Sixers, repeatedly hit available open shot: 24 minutes, 5-8 from field including 3-point field goal.

Scott Wedman. Significant number now with Wedman: his minutes played have dwindled. Averaged 14.4 minutes on trip; with 21 in San Antonio. Best numbers output on trip was in Washington: 9 points, including 4-4 from floor with a 3-point field goal. Sunday against Philadelphia, scored 6 points with 3 rebounds in 9 minutes. As starter, averaged 13.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg on .482 shooting and team was 15-3. Still a contributor but stats may not reflect it.

David Thirdkill. Thirdkill's minutes have receded recently; after the return of Kevin McHale, the rotation has changed. Thirdkill's only action on trip was 8 minutes in San Antonio; scored 4 with a rebound. Scoreless Sunday against Sixers in 4 minutes. Thirdkill was played in 27 of last 32 games, however.

Sam Vincent. Has not played recently; a price a rookie pays. Only action on trip was in San Antonio: 4 points, 1 rebound in 8 minutes. Played briefly against Philadelphia,

Sunday. In 5 minutes, shot 1 for 5 from field, scored both free throws and pulled down 1 rebound. Has adjusted to demands of situation for rookies on a great team without losing competitiveness of self-confidence.

Greg Kite. Kite, in limited minutes, still playing some of the best ball of career. He has played 22 of last 24 games; best game in Texas swing was in San Antonio: 5 rebounds in 14 minutes, 5 points and 2 blocked shots. Grabbed 4 rebounds in 14 minutes against 76ers on Sunday.

Rick Carlisle. Against Knicks, in 10 minutes, 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 block. Played 43 minutes on trip and scored 10 points with 7 assists and 4 rebounds. Has played in 25 straight games and is consistently included in substitution rotation. According to Bob Cousy, an "excellent" ball-handler, if not flashy. Nailed his only shot, an open 17-footer, in Sunday's game against Sixers. Played 15 minutes in that game.

BOSTON CELTICS STATISTICS

WON 54, LOST 13

BOSTON CELTICS STARS

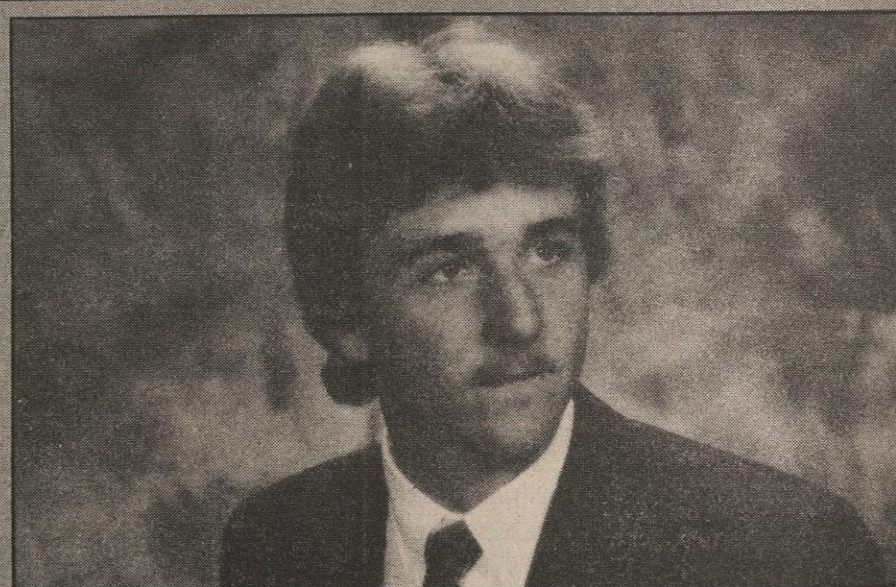
As of March 17

PLAYER	-FIELD GOALS-							-FREE THROWS-				--REBOUNDS--											
	G	QS	MIN	FG	FGA	PCT	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AST	PF	DG	STL	TO	BLK	PTS	AVG	H1
BIRD	67	67	2597	453	1339	488	59	146	350	403	888	163	515	678	454	154	0	142	226	44	1723	25.7	30
MCHEALE	33	48	1904	443	780	568	0	0	268	340	779	131	306	437	143	153	2	24	114	105	1151	21.7	34
PARISH	67	67	2149	439	805	545	200	0	286	408	702	216	407	622	118	168	0	104	108	102	1082	27.2	30
JOHNSON	66	64	2352	398	874	455	0	33	193	337	814	54	158	212	359	168	3	94	132	28	994	15.3	30
AINGE	45	64	2100	295	577	511	18	55	102	902	36	198	204	361	177	4	85	110	7	700	10.8	27	
WEDMAN	66	18	1159	241	513	470	13	38	58	99	644	60	105	165	71	112	0	35	43	18	533	8.1	24
WALTON	65	0	1242	190	338	562	0	0	109	158	690	109	333	442	126	168	33	120	93	189	7.9	15	
SICHTING	24	6	1321	185	332	557	1	3	56	104	211	22	106	127	118	100	0	42	63	0	428	6.4	17
THIRDKILL	4	0	294	42	82	512	0	1	36	61	590	22	32	54	9	47	0	5	16	2	120	3.2	20
VINCENT	46	0	335	40	122	328	0	1	35	50	900	6	33	39	60	48	0	14	41	4	126	2.7	9
CARLISLE	52	0	569	66	138	478	0	8	12	19	632	14	36	50	77	70	1	14	37	2	144	2.3	10
KITE	52	1	331	28	62	452	0	0	9	23	391	22	62	84	9	59	1	3	23	16	65	1.3	8
CELTICS	67	16255	3025	5983	505	101	301	1422	1803	789	861	2231	3092	1951	1459	15	545	115	424	7573	113.0	137	
OPPONENTS	67	16255	2811	6051	456	57	228	1326	1754	756	853	1914	2767	1587	1602	13	548	1052	280	7005	104.6	124	

Eddie Bird Still Undecided

Eddie Bird, younger brother of Larry Bird, was as yet undecided about his choice of colleges through the beginning of the week. The younger Bird has expressed some interest in attending Evansville University in Indiana; there were other rumors circulating that Bird has been interested in Boston College and possibly Indiana State, where his brother received his degree in 1979.

Bird, a forward on Springs Valley High in French Lick, has imprinted a memorable mark on his own in French Lick. He recently broke Larry's scoring record at the high school. Yet Springs Valley was defeated in the state high school tournament by Southridge High School, last season's champions. Bird played well in the game, scoring 22 points with 15 rebounds, but the Southridge



Eddie Bird: undecided.

pressure on Springs Valley's guards caused havoc in the latter's offensive scheme.

The 6'6" Bird had a Bird-like senior season; he averaged 21.6 ppg on (206-409) .504 field goal

shooting. He shot 79.7 from the free throw stripe, 106-133 attempts. He averaged 2.7 assists (63), and he averaged 8.9 rebounds with 55 offensive boards and 158 defensive rebounds.

Basketball Times — College Insight

Trouble is brewing once again for the Big Ten with its television contract. Lorimar, syndicators of this winter's Big Ten basketball package, is reportedly very upset with the conference for "failing to follow through with some promises it made" and is threatening to withhold payment. Two years ago the Big Ten was stifled by its football syndicator and received something considerably less than anticipated from its basketball syndicator which went bust during the season. At the very least it seems reasonable to assume Lorimar will not be back with the Big Ten next year. Interestingly enough, Lorimar, producers of the television hit Dallas, will soon announce it has signed a long term contract with the Southeastern Conference. You have to wonder how long Big Ten athletic directors and presidents will continue permitting commissioner Wayne Duke to be constantly involved in these embarrassing television deals...

Privately Walter Berry, 6-10 junior at St. John's, has given indications that he'll return to complete his senior year. But it is early. Wayman Tisdale was saying the same thing at this time last year... Tisdale's old coach, Billy Tubbs, figures if the big guy had stayed at Oklahoma this year, the Sooners would be far ahead of the college basketball field... Ask Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote how his team has achieved so much and he just shrugs. "Maybe we are doing it with mirrors," he says...

One of the applicants for the Florida State job is outgoing Pitt coach Roy Chipman... And the Dave Bliss bandwagon has picked up support at Ohio State. The SMU coach isn't the first choice to succeed Eldon Miller as the Buckeyes basketball coach, but it is doubtful OSU can lure number one because he's already coaching in the Big Ten (and it isn't Bobby Knight). The whole financial package at Ohio State is said to be in the \$250,000 range... Navy's Paul Evens is the leading contender at Pittsburg...

What separates Al McGuire from all the other color commentators is his creative mind, sense of humor and willingness to break television's code of dignity. Yes, I did catch his grand entrance onto the floor at Cameron Indoor Stadium before the Duke-North Carolina and that's why he's the best... So what if he did say Duke's Johnny Dawkins and Tommy Amaker were, "the best guard combination in the last ten years."

William Bedford, 7-0 Memphis State, pivot say he'll not declare for NBA draft this spring... If Berry follows through and stays in school that means Kentucky's Kenny Walker

or Maryland's Len Bias will probably be the top NBA choice.

The job turned in by coach Rick Pitino in his first year at Providence comes as no surprise to his old boss, New York Knicks coach Hubie Brown. Pitino, says Hubie, is the best assistant he's ever had. "It's not even

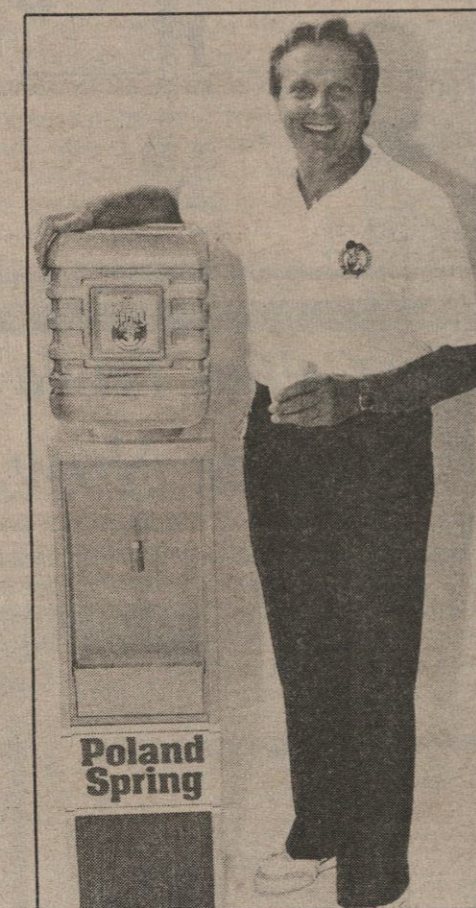
close," he says... Imagine how good the Friars will be when Pitino has some big time players on the roster... And that program's elevation is coming at an important time for the Big East which aside from two or three teams has a lot of people either standing still or sliding backwards....

I predict the NCAA will announce a minimum seating capacity in order to bid for a Final Four following this year's squeeze in at Dallas.

Say what you want about him, but Pearl Washington HAS played like an All-American for the past two months.... Really.



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Celtics Classics

1979-80

As a Rookie, Bird Came in and Turned It Around

Thanks to a master coup by then Celtics general manager Red Auerbach, the 1979-80 season was ensured to be a success before a single minute of a game was even played.

In the draft of the previous year, Auerbach had his keen eye trained on Larry Bird, a junior forward at Indiana State. Bird was highly coveted by most NBA higher-ups, but since he had a year of eligibility remaining and would probably not leave school, no one wanted to risk making him a high draft pick.

Auerbach, the sly fox that he is, looked at the situation a little differently. A sorry 1977-78 season had given Boston the league's sixth pick, and Auerbach used it to select Bird.

As it turned out, Bird elected to stay at Indiana State, where he led the Hoosiers to the NCAA Championship game against Magic Johnson-led Michigan State...

Not recovered from the disastrous 1977-78 campaign, the Celtics limped to a sorry 29-53 record. Tom Sanders began the year as head coach and was fired 14 games into the campaign with the Celtics owning a 2-12 record. Center Dave Cowens replaced Sanders, taking on a dual role as player-coach.

"That season was the worst year I've ever had in this game," Cowens once said. "From both my personal game and team standpoints. It was a embarrassment, a nightmare in many ways. And I'm talking about the entire season, not just my coaching experience."

Things were much better the following year. Bird was signed, sealed, delivered and raring to go, and Dave Cowens could worry about just playing the pivot and leaving the coaching to someone else. That man was Bill Fitch, who had helped turn the Cleveland Cavaliers from an NBA joke to a playoff participant. So the seeds for a league power were planted.

Bird was given number 33, the same number he wore at Indiana State. Steve Kuberski, Ben Clyde and Garfield Smith had worn the digits previously, and only Kuberski with any degree of distinction.

"This sure isn't training camp," Bird said, moments before he was to make his pro debut against the Houston Rockets. "This is the big time."

And Bird was indeed a player who was ready for it.

"We never had a corner man who



'79-'80: A very satisfying season.

could do the things he can," said Auerbach not one to worthless praise. "His intensity reminds me of Havlicek. Sanders was a great rebounder and Heinsohn a great shooter, but here's a guy who can do both of those things and is also a great passer with great hands. This kid is in their class at this point. He's in the Celtics mode as we used to know it."

And this was before Bird had even broken out his first Celtic sweat in a real game.

Thanks in no small part to Bird, Boston raced out to a 20-6 record in the first third of the season and captured the Atlantic Division crown with a 61-21 record. That marked a 32-game turnaround, not only the greatest about-face in the history of the NBA, but one of the biggest changes for the better in the annals of sports.

Most of it went back to Bird. He led the team in minutes, playing 36 a game, was tops on the club and 16th in the league with a 21.6 point-per-game scoring average, his 10.4 rebounds a game was 10th in the league and tops on the Celtics, he led Boston in steals and his 4.5 assists a night were second only to Tiny Archibald.

Oh yes, Bird was also named Rookie of the Year and a first team All-Star.

"He has some skills coming into the league that a lot of guys never acquire," Cowens said. "He knows how to play within his game. If you're open, he'll get you the ball. That makes other guys want to pass."

The Celtics opened the playoffs against the Houston Rockets, and

"They struck us in a microwave oven," Fitch said. "They stuck in the fork and then we were done. We kept hoping that they'd take the night off. I mean, just one day off and we'd be right back at them. But they never took off at all. They kept coming right at us."

Said Bird: "We had the best record in the NBA. And they put us away like nothing. We never played a good game, not even the one we won."

Still, it wasn't a bad way for Bird and Fitch to break in. This was also the first Boston campaign for veteran M.L. Carr, who had signed with the team as a free-agent after playing for the Detroit Pistons.

"Except for the ending, it was a very satisfying season," Cowens said. "We had a new coach in Bill Fitch, and different people came in with different things to prove-- me, Tiny and Bird. After a tough season, we needed to please the fans and ourselves. We got off to a good start and things just snowballed. We surprised a lot of people. By midseason, we knew we were good."

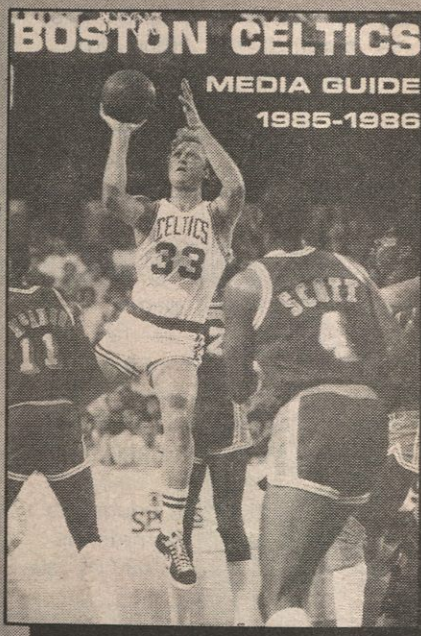
And it didn't take long for people to find out Bird was pretty good.

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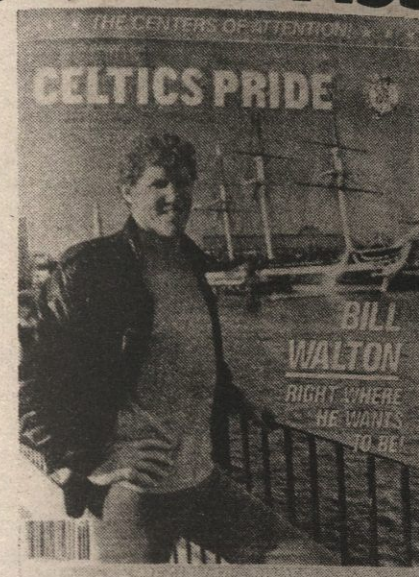
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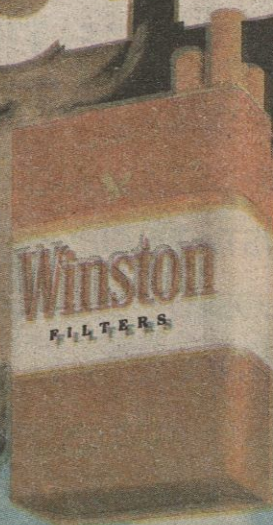
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